

Variation also emerged along the lines of income, with the effects of voter identification requirements varying to a greater extent for voters in households below the poverty line compared to those living above the poverty line.⁹

[Table 8 here]

While the maximum set of requirements did not have a statistically significant effect for voters living below the poverty line, the minimum set of requirements had a significant and negative effect. The probability of voting was .784 for poor voters if they would have to identify themselves by giving their name, and the probability declined to .731 if they would have to provide an affidavit attesting to their identity. Both the maximum and minimum sets of requirements had a significant and negative effect on voters living above the poverty line, but the difference in probability across the effects was narrower (2.3 percent for the maximum requirements and 3.1 percent for the minimum requirements).

The effects of voter identification requirements varied across education levels as well, with those lowest in education demonstrating the widest variation in probabilities as identification requirements ranged from least to most demanding.

[Table 9 here]

Registered voters who had less than a high school education had a 77.5 percent probability of voting if the maximum requirement would be stating one's name, and a 70.8 percent probability if they would have to provide photo identification under the maximum requirement, a difference of 6.7 percent. The difference from the lowest to the highest requirement among the minimum requirements was 7.4 percent. The difference in probabilities ranged from 3.3 percent for the maximum requirements to 4.5 percent for the minimum requirements for voters with a high school diploma. The range of effects of voter identification requirements was smaller among those with higher levels of education (and non-existent for one category – voters with some college education).

Discussion and conclusion

The results presented here provide evidence that as the level of demand associated with voter identification requirements increases, voter turnout declines. This point emerged from both the aggregate data and the individual-level data, although not always for both the maximum and minimum sets of requirements. The overall effect for all registered voters was fairly small, but even a slight decline in turnout has the potential to alter the outcome of a close election.

The effects of voter identification requirements were more pronounced for specific subgroups. Hispanic voters and the poor appeared to be less likely to vote if as the level of required identification becomes more demanding, according to both the aggregate and the individual-level data. In the individual-level data, for Hispanic voters, the probability of voting dropped by 9.7 percent across the various levels of minimum identification requirements. Survey

⁹ I coded respondents as being above or below the U.S. Census Bureau's 2004 poverty line based on respondents' reported annual household income and size of the household.

respondents living in poor households would be 5.3 percent less likely to vote as the requirements varied from stating one's name to attesting to one's identity in an affidavit.

Effects of voter requirements also varied with education. Registered voters who had not graduated from high school would be 6.7 percent less likely to say they voted if the maximum requirement is photo identification as opposed to stating one's name as the maximum requirements ranged from stating one's name to providing photo identification. When considering the minimum requirements, those with less than a high school education would be 7.4 percent less likely to say they voted if the requirement was an affidavit as opposed to stating one's name. Age was also a key factor, with voters ages 18 to 24 being 7.7 percent to 8.9 percent less likely to vote as the requirements ranged from stating one's name to providing a photo identification or affidavit.

Two concerns aired by critics of voter identification requirements were not borne out by the results. African-American voters did not appear to be affected by voter identification requirements, according to both the aggregate data and individual-level data analyses. Also, the elderly, while they would be slightly less likely to vote as requirements ranged from least to most demanding, would not necessarily be affected in the dramatic manner predicted by some opposed to photo identification requirements in particular.

In examining the effects of voter identification requirements on turnout, there is still much to learn. The data examined in this project could not capture the dynamics of how identification requirements might lower turnout. If these requirements dampen turnout, is it because individuals are aware of the requirements and stay away from the polls because they cannot or do not want to meet the requirements?¹⁰ Or, do the requirements result in some voters being turned away when they cannot meet the requirements on Election Day? The CPS data do not include measures that can answer these questions, pointing up the need for collection of additional data. Knowing more about the "on the ground" experiences of voters concerning identification requirements could guide policy-makers at the state and local level in determining whether and at what point in the electoral cycle a concerted public information campaign might be most effective in helping voters to meet identification requirements. Such knowledge also could help in designing training for poll workers election judges to handle questions about, and potential disputes over, voter identification requirements.

¹⁰ The individual-level data offer some insight here. If advance knowledge of the voter identification requirements were to dampen turnout, it is reasonable to expect that advance knowledge of those requirements also could discourage some individuals from registering to vote. I ran the same probit models using voter registration as the dependent variable (coded 1 if the respondent said he or she was registered, and 0 if the respondent was not registered). Neither the maximum nor minimum array of voter identification requirements had a statistically significant effect on the probability that a survey respondent was registered to vote.

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Aug. 7. Weighted by what?

Table 1 – Variation in 2004 State Turnout Based on Voter Identification Requirements			
Maximum Requirement		Minimum Requirement	
Voter Identification Required in the States	Mean Voter Turnout for States in that Category	Voter Identification Required in the States	Mean Voter Turnout for States in that Category
State Name	63.1 %	State Name	61.3 %
Sign Name	58.6 %	Sign Name	60.4 %
Match Signature	62.1 %	Match Signature	59.2 %
Provide Non-Photo ID	57.8 %	Provide Non-Photo ID	57.6 %
Provide Photo ID	57.3 %	Swear Affidavit	58.7 %
Average Turnout for All States	59.6 %		

Table 2. Predictors of 2004 turnout at the county level taking into account maximum voter identification requirements

Variable	Basic Model		Model with Interactions	
	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard Error	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard Error
Intercept	0.64	0.01	0.70	0.02
Voter ID requirements	-0.02**	0.004	-0.04**	0.005
Battleground State	0.04*	0.02	0.04*	0.02
Competitive Senate/Governor's Race	0.04*	0.02	0.04*	0.02
% Age 65 and Older	0.50**	0.03	0.51**	0.03
% African-American	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.04
% Hispanic	-0.17**	0.01	-0.38**	0.05
% Below poverty line	-0.01**	0.0002	-0.01**	0.001
VID * African-American	----	----	-0.004	0.01
VID * Hispanic	----	----	0.06**	0.01
VID * Poverty	----	----	0.001**	0.0002
-2 Log Likelihood	-8234.5		-8253.5	

Coefficients are restricted maximum likelihood estimates. N = 3,112. * p < .05 ** p < .01 (two-tailed tests)

Table 3. Predictors of 2004 turnout at the county level taking into account minimum voter identification requirements

Variable	Basic Model		Model with Interactions	
	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard Error	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard Error
Intercept	0.62	0.01	0.66	0.02
Voter ID requirements	-0.008	0.005	-0.02**	0.006
Battleground State	0.04**	0.01	0.04*	0.02
Competitive Senate/Governor's Race	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02
% Age 65 and Older	0.50**	0.03	0.49**	0.03
% African-American	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03
% Hispanic	-0.17**	0.01	-0.37**	0.05
% Below poverty line	-0.01**	0.0003	-0.01**	0.001
VID * African-American	----	----	-0.004	0.01
VID * Hispanic	----	----	0.06**	0.01
VID * Poverty	----	----	0.001**	0.0002
-2 Log Likelihood	-8222.7		-8229.4	

Coefficients are restricted maximum likelihood estimates. N = 3,112. * p < .05 ** p < .01 (two-tailed tests)

Table 4. Probit model of voter turnout.

	Maximum requirements		Minimum requirements	
Variable	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard Error	Unstandardized Estimate	Standard error
Voter ID requirements	-0.04*	0.01	-0.05**	0.01
Hispanic	-0.06	0.05	-0.05	0.05
Black	0.22**	0.04	0.22**	0.04
Other race	-0.23**	0.04	-0.23**	0.04
Age in years	0.01**	0.001	0.01**	0.001
Education	0.12**	0.005	0.11**	0.005
Household income	0.03**	0.003	0.03**	0.003
Married	0.20**	0.02	0.20**	0.02
Female	0.09**	0.01	0.09**	0.01
Battleground state	0.18**	0.04	0.19**	0.04
Competitive race	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Employed	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04
Member of workforce	-0.04	0.05	-0.04	0.05
Native-born citizen	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05
Moved within past 6 months	-0.27**	0.03	-0.27**	0.03
Constant	-4.48**	0.20	-4.46**	0.20
Pseudo-R-Squared	0.09		0.09	

Notes:

N = 54,973 registered voters

p < .05** p < .01** (two-tailed tests)

Models were estimated with robust standard errors to correct for correlated error terms within each state.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.

Table 5. Predicted probability of voter turnout – full model

	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement
State name	0.912	0.911
Sign name	0.906	0.903
Match signature	0.900	0.895
Non-photo ID	0.894	0.887
Photo ID	0.887	----
Affidavit	----	0.878
Total difference from lowest to highest	0.025	0.033
N	54,973	
Figures represent the predicted probability of registered voters saying they voted as the identification requirement varies from the lowest to the highest point in the scale, with all other variables held constant.		
Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.		

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Table 6. Predicted probability of voter turnout – White and Hispanic voters

	White voters		Hispanic voters
	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement	Minimum requirement
State name	0.920	0.922	0.870
Sign name	0.915	0.915	0.849
Match signature	0.909	0.907	0.826
Non-photo ID	0.902	0.899	0.800
Photo ID	0.895	----	----
Affidavit	----	0.890	0.773
Total difference from lowest to highest	0.025	0.032	0.097
N	44,760		2,860

Figures represent the predicted probability of registered voters saying they voted as the identification requirement varies from the lowest to the highest point in the scale, with all other variables held constant. Maximum voter identification requirements were not a significant predictor of voting for Hispanic voters. Maximum and minimum voter identification requirements were not a significant predictor for African-American voters.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.

Table 7. Predicted probability of voter turnout – Age groups						
	18 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64	65 and older
	Maximum requirements	Minimum requirements	Maximum requirements	Minimum requirements	Minimum requirements	Minimum requirements
State name	0.839	0.831	0.831	0.831	0.936	0.916
Sign name	0.819	0.814	0.820	0.817	0.932	0.910
Match signature	0.797	0.759	0.808	0.803	0.927	0.904
Non-photo ID	0.774	0.775	0.796	0.788	0.923	0.898
Photo ID	0.750	----	0.783	----	----	----
Affidavit	----	0.754	----	0.773	0.918	0.892
Total difference -- lowest to highest	0.089	0.077	0.048	0.058	0.018	0.024
N	5,065		20,066		20,758	9,084
Figures represent the predicted probability of registered voters saying they voted as the identification requirement varies from the lowest to the highest point in the scale, with all other variables held constant. Maximum voter identification requirements were not a significant predictor of voting for voters ages 45 to 64 and 65 and older.						
Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.						

Comment [a3]: Can you add something to this footnote to once again clarify the difference between the very high turnout figures derived from the CPS respondents self-reports and actual measures of turnout which tend to be in the 50% – 65% range.

Table 8. Predicted probability of voter turnout – Voters above and below the poverty line

	Voters above the poverty line		Voters below the poverty line
	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement	Minimum requirement
State name	0.920	0.922	0.784
Sign name	0.915	0.915	0.772
Match signature	0.909	0.907	0.758
Non-photo ID	0.903	0.899	0.745
Photo ID	0.897	----	----
Affidavit	----	0.891	0.731
Total difference from lowest to highest	0.023	0.031	0.053
N	49,935		5,038

Figures represent the predicted probability of registered voters saying they voted as the identification requirement varies from the lowest to the highest point in the scale, with all other variables held constant. Maximum voter identification requirements were not a significant predictor of voting for voters who were below the poverty line.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.

Table 9. Predicted probability of voter turnout – By education

	Less than high school		High school		College		Graduate school	
	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement	Maximum requirement	Minimum requirement
State name	0.775	0.779	0.866	0.869	0.960	0.959	0.977	0.979
Sign name	0.759	0.762	0.858	0.859	0.956	0.954	0.973	0.973
Match signature	0.743	0.743	0.850	0.848	0.951	0.950	0.968	0.967
Non-photo ID	0.725	0.724	0.842	0.836	0.945	0.945	0.963	0.959
Photo ID	0.708	----	0.833	----	0.939	----	0.957	----
Affidavit	-----	0.705	----	0.824	----	0.940	-----	0.950
Total difference -- lowest to highest	0.067	0.074	0.033	0.045	0.021	0.019	0.020	0.029
N	4,903		16,361		11,017		5,739	

Figures represent the predicted probability of registered voters saying they voted as the identification requirement varies from the lowest to the highest point in the scale, with all other variables held constant. Maximum and minimum voter identification requirements were not a significant predictor of voting for those with some college education.

Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement, November 2004.

**Report to the
U. S. Election Assistance Commission
On
Best Practices to Improve Voter Identification Requirements
Pursuant to the
HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002
Public Law 107-252**

June 28, 2006

Submitted by

The Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
The Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University

The Research Team

This research report on Voter Identification Requirements in the 2004 election is part of a broader analysis that also includes a study of Provisional Voting, which has already been submitted to the EAC. Conducting the work was a consortium of The Eagleton Institute of Politics of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and The Moritz College of Law of The Ohio State University.

The Eagleton Institute explores state and national politics through research, education, and public service, linking the study of politics with its day-to-day practice. It focuses attention on how contemporary political systems work, how they change, and how they might work better. Eagleton regularly undertakes projects to enhance political understanding and involvement, often in collaboration with government agencies, the media, non-profit groups, and other academic institutions.

The Moritz College of Law has served the citizens of Ohio and the nation since its establishment in 1891. It has played a leading role in the legal profession through countless contributions made by graduates and faculty. Its contributions to election law have become well known through its Election Law @ Moritz website. *Election Law @ Moritz* illuminates public understanding of election law and its role in our nation's democracy.

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REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EAC VOTER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Report Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) (Public Law 107-252) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) (Sec. 241, 42 USC 15381) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. The purpose of these studies is to promote methods for voting and administering elections, including provisional voting, that are convenient, accessible and easy to use; that yield accurate, secure and expeditious voting systems; that afford each registered and eligible voter an equal opportunity to vote and to have that vote counted; and that are efficient.

This study provides information on voter identification practices in the 2004 election. It makes recommendations for best practices to evaluate future proposals for voter ID requirements, including the systematic collection and evaluation of information from the states. The research was conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University under a contract with the EAC, dated May 24, 2005. The work included a review and legal analysis of state statutes, regulations and litigation concerning voter identification and provisional voting as well as a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to turnout in the 2004 election. This report is a companion to a report on Provisional Voting submitted to the EAC on November 28, 2005 under the same contract.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background and Methods

This report arrives at a time of considerable ferment over the issue of voter identification. The debate across the nation over requiring voters to produce a specific identification document before being permitted to cast a regular (as opposed to a provisional) ballot, has revealed supporters and opponents in polarized camps.

- Proponents of stricter identification requirements base their case on improving the security of the ballot by reducing opportunities for one kind of vote fraud --multiple voting or voting by those who are not eligible. The proponents argue that their goal is to ensure that only those legally entitled to vote do so, and do so only once at each election.

turnout and on vote fraud is to collect more information on both topics systematically and regularly.

Making a statistical estimate of the effect of voting regulations on turnout is difficult. The dynamics of turnout are complex, much studied, and only partially understood. Some agreement exists, however, that three factors that exert substantial influence on voter turnout are:¹ the socioeconomic status of the potential voter; legal requirements to vote; and the political context of the election. By focusing on how voters identify themselves at the polls, this report emphasizes legal requirements. The statistical analysis also considers some of the socioeconomic, racial, and age characteristics of the electorate, as well as the political context in 2004 (such as whether a state was a battleground in the presidential race).

Examining tradeoffs between ballot security and ballot access requires some measure of the effectiveness of voter ID requirements in reducing multiple voting or voting by ineligible voters. The existing evidence on the incidence of vote fraud, especially on the kind of vote fraud that could be reduced by requiring more rigorous voter identification, is not sufficient to evaluate those tradeoffs.² Assessing the effectiveness of voter ID as a way to protect the integrity of the ballot should logically include an estimate of the nature and frequency of vote fraud. This research does not include consideration of vote fraud, nor does it estimate the possible effectiveness of various voter ID regimes to counter attempts at vote fraud. Our analysis also cannot take into account how many potential voters who did not turn out under comparatively stricter voter ID requirements might have been ineligible or eligible to vote.

Why not?
Data
limitations?
Use of
census
data?

Despite these qualifications regarding the quality of the available data and the limitations of statistical analysis, however, the different statistical methods and two different sets of data on turnout in 2004 election used in the study point to the same general finding. Stricter voter identification requirements (for example, requiring voters to present non-photo ID compared to simply stating their names) were correlated with reduced turnout in the models employed, as described in detail in Appendix C.³ As explained below, these models find that a statistically

¹ See, for example, Tom William Rice and Patrick J. Kenney, "Voter Turnout in Presidential Primaries." 1985. Political Behavior, 7: 101-112. Identification requirements are not the only legal restrictions on voting. States also differ, for example, in their registration requirements (including how long before the election registration must take place and the identity documents required register).

² The EAC has contracted with other researchers to study vote fraud issues.

³ Appendix C: Tim Vercellotti, Eagleton Institute of Politics, *Analysis of Effects of Voter Identification Requirements on Turnout*. Using the aggregate data, photo ID did not have a significant effect on turnout, possibly because in the

challenge process). We have included "maximum" requirements in our analysis, and not simply "minimum" requirements, because simply asking voters to produce particular identifying information may have a deterrent effect, even if voters are ultimately allowed to cast a regular ballot without that identification. For example, in a state where voters are asked to show photo ID at the polling place, but still allowed to vote by completing an affidavit confirming their eligibility, the "maximum" of being asked to show photo ID may deter some voters even though the "minimum" would allow them to vote without photo ID.

It is worth emphasizing that, at the time of the 2004 election, there was *no* state that had a "minimum" requirement of showing photo ID – in other words, there was no state that required voters to show photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot. For this reason, our report does not measure the impact of laws, like those recently enacted in Indiana and Georgia, which require voters to show photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot without an affidavit exception.

To examine the potential variation on turnout rates associated with each type of voter ID requirements in effect on Election Day 2004, the statistical analysis drew on two sets of data. These were, first, aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state and, second, the reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey by the U. S. Census Bureau. Using two different data sets makes it possible to check the validity of one analysis against the other. It also provides insights not possible using only one of the data sets. The aggregate analysis cannot provide valid estimates on the effects of different ID requirements on particular demographic groups (e.g., the old, the young, African-Americans, the poor, or high school graduates). The Current Population Survey data does permit that kind of analysis, although it has the disadvantage of relying on self-reports by respondents about their registration status and experience in the polling place.

Data does not cover same spectrum - one Reg. Voters - one Census

To understand legal issues that have been raised in recent litigation over voter ID requirements, we collected and analyzed the few major cases that have been decided so far on this issue. The decisions so far provide some guidance on the constitutional and other constraints as to voter ID requirements.

Summary of Findings

As voter identification requirements vary, voter turnout varies as well. This finding emerged from both the statistical analysis's aggregate data and the individual-level data, although not always

knowledge also could help in designing training for election judges to handle questions about, and potential disputes over, voter identification requirements.

Our analysis of litigation suggests that the courts will look more strictly at requirements that voters produce a photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot, than at non-photo ID laws. The courts have used a balancing test to weigh the legitimate interest in preventing election fraud against the citizen's right to privacy (protecting social security numbers from public disclosure, for example) and the reasonableness of requirements for identity documents. To provide both the clarity and certainty in administration of elections needed to forestall destabilizing challenges to outcomes, a best practice for the states may be to limit requirements for voter identification to the minimum needed to prevent duplicate registration and ensure eligibility.

The current lack of understanding of precisely how voter ID requirements affect turnout could be ameliorated by requiring the collection and reporting of additional data, including the reasons potential voters are required to cast a provisional ballot and the reasons for rejecting provisional ballots during the 2006 and subsequent elections. Also useful would be the results of surveys of voters on their experiences in meeting voter ID requirements and on what type of ballot they cast.⁵ And, of course, more information is needed on the incidence and varieties of vote fraud, but that inquiry is outside the scope of this report.

Recommendations for consideration and action by the EAC

The dynamics of Voter ID requirements –how more rigorous voter ID requirements may affect the decision by potential voters to go or stay away from the polls-- are not perfectly understood. This lack of understanding should be recognized in the policy process in the states. The debate over voter ID in the states would be improved by additional research sponsored by the EAC.

The EAC should consider the following actions to improve understanding of the relationship between voter ID requirements and the two important goals of ensuring ballot access and ensuring ballot integrity.

⁵ Arizona held its first election with its new, stricter ID requirements on March 14, 2006. In at least one county (Maricopa) election officials handed a survey to voters that asked if they knew about the voter identification law and if they did, how they found out about it. Edythe Jensen, "New Voter ID Law Goes Smoothly in Chandler," *Arizona Republic*, March 15, 2006. More surveys of this kind can illuminate the dynamics of voter ID and voting in ways that are not possible now because of insufficient data.

statutory or regulatory requirements. Such reports should be available to the public.

4. Encourage states to examine the time period allowed for voters who cast a provisional ballot because they lacked required ID to return with their identification. In eleven states, voters who had to cast a provisional ballot because they lacked the ID required for a regular ballot were permitted to return later with their ID. Their provision of this ID is the critical step in evaluating the ballots. The length of the period in which the voter may return with ID is important. In setting the time period for return, which now varies among the states from the same day to about two weeks, states should consider three factors: the convenience of the voter, the total time allowed to evaluate ballots⁶, and the safe harbor provision in presidential elections.
5. Recommendations to the states from EAC should reflect current judicial trends. Requirements that voters provide some identifying documentation have been upheld where photo ID is *not* the only acceptable form. Whether laws requiring photo ID will be upheld is less certain.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH

Background and Approach of the Study

Voter ID requirements are just one set of rules governing voting that may affect turnout. Social scientists have long studied how election rules affect participation in elections. The general view today is that the individual citizen makes the choice of whether to vote in a way similar to other decisions that a rational citizen makes, by comparing costs and benefits. The benefits of voting are fairly stable and hard to specify given the remote probability that any one vote will make a difference in an election. But whatever the benefit as perceived by an individual voter, as the costs of voting (for example, time, hassle, acquisition of information) increase, the likelihood that a citizen will vote decrease. Not all groups in the population calculate the cost of participation in the same way, so that election laws (such as registration or identification requirements) may affect different groups differently.

A short summary of some of the social science literature illustrates what may be a broad consensus that the rules of elections affect turnout, but note the important differences in the details of what groups may be most affected.

⁶ Our research on provisional voting reveals that states that provide more than a week to evaluate provisional ballots end up counting substantially more of those ballots than states that provide less than a week.

- Squire, Wolfinger, and Glass in "Residential Mobility and Voter Turnout." *American Political Science Review*. 81:1 (March 1987) found that people who move constitute a major demographic group affected by registration laws. They estimated that altering laws to facilitate voting by recently moved people could increase turnout by 9%. Highton in "Residential Mobility, Community Mobility, and Voter Turnout." *Political Behavior*. 22:2 (June 2000) also found that people who move have lower turnout than stable residents, and estimated that the decline was more a result of registration laws than a loss of social connections.
- Highton and Wolfinger in "Estimating the Effects of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993." *Political Behavior*. 20:2 (June 1998) concluded that the Motor Voter laws led to a significant increase in voting; that eliminating voter purges for not voting also increases voting; and that these effects are felt most heavily by the young (under 30) and the mobile (moved within past 2 years). Knack, in "Does 'Motor Voter' Work? Evidence from State-Level Data." *Journal of Politics*., 57:3 (August 1995), also found that motor voter does lead to increased registration and voting, but that other parts of NVRA of 1993, like mail-in registrations, agency-based registrations, and limitations on voter purges had not been as influential two years after the passage of the act.

While voter ID may not have been the subject of as much research as the registration process, establishing the eligibility of a person to vote has long been part of the electoral process. Voters may have to identify themselves twice in the electoral process: when registering to vote and then when casting a ballot. The pressures felt by the voter arising from the need to check ID, even so simple a check as a signature match, can be greater at the polls on Election Day than at the time of registration. Poll workers may feel under pressure when faced with long lines and limited time.

Voter ID requirements on Election Day

This analysis focuses on ID requirements on Election Day, but with an appreciation that the ID requirements at time of registration and on Election Day are inter-related.⁷ The emphasis in this report is on Voter ID requirements on Election Day and afterwards as election judges evaluate provisional ballots. This is the critical period for the electoral system, the time when ballot access and ballot security are in the most sensitive balance.

⁷ As the Carter-Baker Commission noted, photo ID requirements for in-person voting do little to address the problem of fraudulent registration by mail, especially in states that do not require third-party organizations that register voters to verify ID. Commission on Federal Election Reform, pp 46-47.

increased understanding of the factual evidence relating to the imposition of voter ID requirements, based on available data and statistical analysis of that data, can help inform the policy process.

Assessing the effectiveness of voter ID as a way to protect the integrity of the ballot should logically include an estimate of the nature and frequency of vote fraud. The EAC has commissioned a separate analysis of the incidence of vote fraud. Consequently, this research does not include consideration of vote fraud nor the possible effectiveness of various voter ID regimes to counter attempts at vote fraud. As a result, our study of the possible effects of voter ID requirements on turnout cannot take into account how many potential voters who did not turn out under comparatively stricter voter ID requirements might have been ineligible or eligible to vote.

In some states, voters lacking required ID, or who have ID that does not reflect their current address, are able to vote only by casting a provisional ballot.¹⁰ Voter ID requirements that require voters to bring a document to the polls --rather than simply sign their names-- may divert more voters to the provisional ballot. Requiring poll workers to request and check ID, can put stress on the already demanding environment of the polling place. Scrutiny of ID can create lines at the polling places. Further delays can result when voters cast a provisional ballot and fill out the ballot envelope. Voters who cast a provisional ballot because they lack their ID on Election Day, and who then fail to return with the needed document or documents, will have their ballot rejected.¹¹ And, of course, the cost of processing provisional ballots is greater than the cost of regular ballots.

Each of these potential consequences of more elaborate voter identification processes can increase the chance of litigation. Long lines will, at best, discourage voters and at worst make voting seem a hassle, an impression that could keep more citizens (even those with ID) from the polls.

¹⁰ For example, the Florida voter ID law adopted after the 2004 election and pre-cleared by the Department of Justice, permits voters who cannot meet the ID requirements to sign an affidavit on the envelope of a provisional ballot, which will be counted if the signature matches that on the voter's registration form.

¹¹ The EAC's Election Day Study found "improper ID," to be the third most common reason for a provisional ballot to be rejected. "Improper ID" was cited by 7 states responding to the survey, compared to 14 mentions for voting in the wrong precinct. *Election Day Study*, Chapter 6, p. 5.

5. If a side effect of the Voter ID regulation is likely to reduce turnout, generally or among particular groups, is it possible to take other steps to ameliorate the adverse consequences?¹⁶
6. Does it comply with the letter and spirit of Voting Rights Act?
7. The seventh question is the most difficult to answer. How neutral is the effect of the Voter ID requirement on the composition of the qualified and eligible electorate? Might it, intentionally or unintentionally, reduce the turnout of particular groups of voters or supporters of one party or another without an offsetting decrease in vote fraud?

Voter ID and Turnout

Based on research for this study by the Moritz College of Law, states had one of five types of maximum requirements in place on Election Day 2004. These are shown in Table 1, *Voter ID Requirements*. The five categories: at the polling place, voters were asked to either: state their names (10 states); sign their names (13 states and the District of Columbia); sign their names, to be matched to a signature on file (seven states); provide a form of identification that did not necessarily include a photo (15 states); or provide a photo identification (five states).¹⁷ Using this information made it possible to code the states according to these requirements, and examine the assumption that voter identification requirements would pose an increasingly demanding requirement in this order: stating one's name, signing one's name, matching one's signature to a signature on file, providing a form of identification, and providing a form of photo identification, however, in all "photo ID" states in 2004, voters without photo ID could cast a regular ballot after signing an affidavit concerning their identity and eligibility or provide other forms of ID). The report refers to this set of ID requirements as "maximum," the most rigorous ID the voter can be asked to present at the polling place in order to cast a regular ballot.¹⁸

Election laws in several states offer exceptions to these requirements if potential voters lack the necessary form of identification. Laws in those states set a minimum standard – that is the

¹⁶ For example, the Carter-Baker Commission coupled its recommendation for a national voter ID card to a call for an affirmative effort by the states to reach out and register the unregistered, that is, to use the new Voter ID regime as a means to enroll more voters. Similarly, Richard Hasen has suggested combining a national voter ID with universal registration. See his "Beyond the Margin of Litigation: Reforming U.S. Election Administration to Avoid Electoral Meltdown," 62 Washington and Lee Law Review 937 (2005).

¹⁷ Oregon conducts elections entirely by mail. Voters sign their mail-in ballots, and election officials match the signatures to signatures on file. For the purposes of this analysis, Oregon is classified as a state that requires a signature match.

¹⁸ As noted above, our analysis does not consider additional requirements that particular voters may be subjected to as part of an official challenge process, in the event that their eligibility is called into question.

TABLE 1 – Voter ID Requirements²⁰

State	Maximum Forms of ID Required 2004	Current ID Requirement for First-Time Voters	Current ID Requirements for All Other Voters	Verification Method for Provisional Ballots
Alabama	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Address & Registration
Alaska	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Signature
Arizona	Provide ID	Gov-issued Photo ID	Gov-issued Photo ID ¹	Address & Registration
Arkansas	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Address & Registration
California	Sign Name	Sign Name	Sign Name	Signature
Colorado	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Address & Registration
Connecticut	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Affidavit
D.C.	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Address & Registration
Delaware	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Affidavit
Florida	Photo ID ²	Photo ID	Photo ID	Signature
Georgia	Provide ID	Gov. Issued Photo ID	Gov. Issued Photo ID	Affidavit
Hawaii	Photo ID ^{^^}	Photo ID	Photo ID ^{^^}	Affidavit
Idaho	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	EDR
Illinois	Give Name	Provide ID*	Match Sig.	Affidavit
Indiana	Sign Name	Gov. Issued Photo ID	Gov. Issued Photo ID	Bring ID Later
Iowa	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Bring ID Later
Kansas	Sign Name	Sign Name	Sign Name	Bring ID Later
Kentucky	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	Affidavit
Louisiana	Photo ID	Photo ID	Photo ID [^]	DOB and Address
Maine	Give Name	Provide ID*	Give Name	EDR
Maryland	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Bring ID Later
Mass.	Give Name	Provide ID*	Give Name	Affidavit
Michigan	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Bring ID Later
Minnesota	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	EDR
Mississippi	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Affidavit
Missouri	Provide ID	Provide ID*	Provide ID	Address & Registration
Montana	Provide ID	Provide ID*	Provide ID	Bring ID Later
Nebraska	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Affidavit
Nevada	Match Sig.	Provide ID*	Match Sig.	Affidavit
New Jersey	Match Sig.	Provide ID*	Match Sig.	Bring ID Later
New Mexico	Sign Name	Provide ID	Provide ID	Bring ID Later
New York	Match Sig.	Provide ID*	Match Sig.	Affidavit
NH	Give Name	Provide ID	Give Name	EDR
North Carolina	Give Name	Provide ID*	Give Name	Varies
North Dakota	Provide ID	Provide ID	Provide ID	No Registration
Ohio	Match Sig.	Provide ID	Provide ID	Address & Registration
Oklahoma	Sign Name	Provide ID*	Sign Name	Address & Registration
Oregon	Match Sig.	Provide ID*	Match Sig.	Signature
Penn.	Match Sig.	Provide ID ⁴	Match Sig.	Address & Registration
Rhode Island	Give Name	Provide ID*	Give Name	Address & Registration

²⁰ See Appendix 1 for a more detailed summary, including citations and statutory language, of the identification requirements in each state.

Findings of the statistical analysis

The analysis looked at the voter identification requirements in two ways, as a continuous variable and as a series of discrete variables. As a continuous variable the maximum voter identification requirements are ranked according to how demanding they were judged to be, with photo ID as the most demanding requirement. As discrete variables, the statistical analysis assume that stating name is the least demanding ID requirement and compare each other requirement to it.

The analysis treating the requirements as a continuous variable offers some statistical support for the premise that as the level of required proof increases, turnout declines. Averaging across counties in each state, statewide turnout is negatively correlated with maximum voter identification requirements ($r = -.30$, $p < .05$). In considering the array of minimum requirements, with affidavit as the most demanding requirement, however, the correlation between voter identification and turnout is negative, but it is not statistically significant ($r = -.20$, $p = .16$). This suggests that the relationship between turnout rates and minimum requirements may not be linear. Breaking down the turnout rates by type of requirement reveals in greater detail the relationship between voter identification requirements and voter turnout.

Table 2 – Variation in 2004 State Turnout Based on Voter Identification Requirements

Maximum Requirement		Minimum Requirement	
Voter Identification Required in the States	Mean Voter Turnout for States in that Category	Voter Identification Required in the States	Mean Voter Turnout for States in that Category
State Name	64.2 %	State Name	63.0 %
Sign Name	61.1 %	Sign Name	60.4 %
Match Signature	60.9 %	Match Signature	61.7 %
Provide Non-Photo ID	59.3 %	Provide Non-Photo ID	59.0 %
Provide Photo ID	58.1 %	Swear Affidavit	60.1 %
Average Turnout (All States)	60.9 %		

This table displays the mean turnout using the aggregate county level data for each state in 2004.

The aggregate data show that 60.9 percent of the estimated citizen voting age population voted in 2004. Differences in voter turnout at the state level in 2004 varied based on voter identification requirements. Taking into account the maximum requirements, an average of 64.6 percent of the voting age population turned out in states that required voters to state their names, compared to 58.1 percent in states that required photo identification. A similar trend

to register to vote becomes more challenging. Thus our model takes into account the number of days between each state's registration deadline and the election.

The dependent variable in each model using the aggregate data was voter turnout at the county level, with turnout calculated as the percentage of the citizen voting-age population that voted in the 2004 election.

The results of this modeling suggest that the stricter voter identification requirements of matching one's signature to a signature on file with election authorities or presenting a non-photo ID are associated with lower turnout compared to turnout in states that required voters to simply state their name, holding constant the electoral context and demographic variables.

Contextual factors, such as whether the county was in a battleground state or whether that state had a competitive race for governor and/or U.S. Senate, were associated with increased voter turnout. The time between the closing date for registration and the election was correlated with a slight negative effect on turnout. As the percentage of Hispanics in the county's population increased, turnout declined. The percentage of senior citizens in the county and household median income were associated with higher turnout. The percentage of African-Americans in the county did not have a significant effect in the model. The percentage of senior citizens in the county and household median income showed a positive correlation with turnout. In this aggregate model, the percentage of African-Americans in the county was not associated with a significant difference in turnout.

The relationship of the minimum voter identification requirements to turnout was not demonstrated. None of the dummy variables for voter identification requirements were statistically significant. (A "dummy variable" represents a particular attribute and has the value zero or one for each observation, e.g. 1 for male and 0 for female.) Being a battleground state and having a competitive statewide race were significant and positive, as was the percentage of senior citizens in the county and household median income. The percentage of Hispanics in the county's population continued to be associated with reduced turnout, as was the number of days between the closing date for registration and the election.²³

²³ This test incorporated a series of interactions between the maximum and minimum voter identification requirements and the percentage of African-Americans and Hispanics living in the counties. In each case the interactions did not improve the fit of the models to the data. See tables A-1 and A-2 in the appendix of Vercellotti's paper in the appendices.

addition to the voter identification requirements, the models include other socioeconomic, demographic, and political environment factors that might have influenced turnout in 2004.²⁶ The dependent variable in these analyses is whether a respondent said he or she voted in the November 2004 election.²⁷

In the model, three of the voter identification requirements have a statistically significant correlation with whether survey respondents said they had voted in 2004. That is, compared to states that require voters only to state their names, the requirement to sign one's name, provide a non-photo ID, or photo ID in the maximum requirements or affidavit in the minimum is associated with lower turnout.

Of the other state factors, only the competitiveness of the presidential race showed a significant, correlation with increased turnout. In terms of demographic influences, African-American voters were more likely than white voters or other voters to say they had cast a ballot, while Asian-Americans were less likely than white or other voters to say they had turned out. Hispanic voters were not statistically different from white or other voters in terms of reported turnout. Consistent with previous research, income, and marital status all were positive predictors of voting. Women also were more likely to say they voted than men. Among the age categories, those ages 45 to 64 and 65 and older were more likely than those ages 18 to 24 to say they voted. Respondents who had earned a high school diploma, attended some college, graduated from college or attended graduate school were all more likely to say they voted than those who had not finished high school.

While the probit models provide statistical evidence for the relationship of voter identification requirements and other variables to turnout, probit coefficients do not lend themselves to intuitive interpretation.²⁸ Table 3 below shows predicted probabilities (calculated from the probit

²⁶ The models are estimated using probit analysis, which calculates the effects of independent variables on the probability that an event occurred – in this case whether a respondent said he or she voted and using robust standard errors to control for correlated error terms for observations from within the same state.

²⁷ The U.S. Census Bureau reported, based on the November 2004 CPS, that 89 percent of those who identified themselves as registered voters said they voted in 2004 (U.S. Census Bureau 2005). Previous research has shown that, generally speaking, some survey respondents overstate their incidence of voting. Researchers speculate that over-reports may be due to the social desirability that accompanies saying one has done his or her civic duty, or a reluctance to appear outside the mainstream of American political culture (U.S. Census Bureau 1990). It is also possible that voting is an indication of civic engagement that predisposes voters to agree to complete surveys at a higher rate than non-voters (Flanigan and Zingale 2002). Hence the voter turnout rates reported in the CPS tend to be up to 10 percentage points higher than the actual turnout rate for the nation (Flanigan and Zingale 2002). Even with this caveat, however, the CPS serves as a widely accepted source of data on voting behavior.

²⁸ A probit model is a popular specification of a generalized linear regression model, using the probit link function.

requirement compared to states where stating one's name was the maximum or minimum requirement.

Race and ethnicity have generated particular interest in the debate over voter ID requirements.³¹ The analysis using the aggregate data shed no light on the association between voter ID requirements and turnout for African-American and Hispanic voters. But in the models using the individual data, some significant relationships emerged for African-American, Hispanic and Asian citizens. For the entire population, the signature, non-photo identification and photo identification requirements all were associated with lower turnout compared to the requirement that voters simply state their names. These correlations translated into reduced probabilities of voting of about 3 to 4 percent for the entire sample, with larger differences for specific subgroups. For example, the predicted probability that Hispanics would vote in states that required non-photo identification was about 10 percentage points lower than in states where Hispanic voters gave their names. The difference was about 6 percent for African-Americans and Asian-Americans, and about 2 percent for white voters.

The model also showed that Hispanic voters were less likely to vote in states that required non-photo identification as opposed to stating one's name. Hispanic voters were 10 percent less likely to vote in non-photo identification states compared to states where voters only had to give their name.

More rigorous voter identification requirements were associated with lower turnout rates for Asian-American voters as well. Asian-American voters were 8.5 percent less likely to vote in states that required non-photo identification compared to states that require voters to state their names under the maximum requirements, and they were 6.1 percent less likely to vote where non-photo identification was the minimum requirement.

Conclusions of the Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis found that, as voter identification requirements vary, voter turnout varies as well. This finding emerged from both the aggregate data and the individual-level data,

³¹ Incorporating discrete variables for Hispanics, African-Americans, and Asian-Americans into one model carries the implicit assumption that the remaining variables, including education and income, will influence each of these groups in a similar manner in terms of deciding whether to vote. These assumptions are not always born out by the data (see Leighley and Vedlitz, 1999.) To isolate the effects of voter identification and other variables on voter turnout within specific racial and ethnic groups, the sample is divided into sub-samples and the model re-run to calculate the data discussed and shown in Tables 5, 6, and 7 in Appendix C.

Litigation Over Voter ID Requirements

A handful of cases have challenged identification requirements in court in recent years. In general, requirements that voters provide some identifying documentation have been upheld, where photo ID is *not* the only acceptable form. Whether laws requiring photo ID will be upheld is more doubtful. To date, only two cases have considered laws requiring voters to show photo ID (*Common Cause v. Billups* and *Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita*). Cases challenging the mandatory disclosure of voters' Social Security numbers on privacy grounds have yielded mixed results.

Non-photo identification. For the most part, courts have looked favorably on requirements that voters present some form of identifying documents if the photo identification is not the only form accepted. In *Colorado Common Cause v. Davidson*, No. 04CV7709, 2004 WL 2360485, at *1 (Colo. Dist. Ct. Oct. 18, 2004), plaintiffs challenged a law requiring all in-person voters to show identification (not just first-time registrants). The court upheld this requirement against a constitutional challenge. Similarly, in *League of Women Voters v. Blackwell*, 340 F. Supp. 2d 823 (N.D. Ohio 2004), the court rejected a challenge to an Ohio directive requiring first-time voters who registered by mail to provide one of the HAVA-permitted forms of identification, in order to have their provisional ballots counted. Specifically, the directive provided that their provisional ballots would be counted if the voter (a) orally recited his driver's license number or the last four digits of his social security number or (b) returned to the polling place before it closed with some acceptable identification (including reciting those identification numbers). *Id.* This was found to be consistent with HAVA.

Photo ID. Since the 2004 election, two states have adopted laws requiring photo identification at the polls in order to have one's vote counted, without an affidavit exception: Georgia and Indiana.³² Both these requirements were enacted in 2005 and both have been challenged in court. The Georgia law required voters attempting to cast a ballot in person present a valid form of photographic identification. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417. On October 18, 2005, the District Court granted the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, enjoining the application of the new identification requirements on constitutional grounds. In granting the injunction, the court held that plaintiffs' claims under both the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection) and Twenty-Fourth Amendment (poll tax) had a

³² Indiana's law does allow voters without ID to cast provisional ballots, and then to appear before the county board of elections to execute an affidavit saying that they are indigent and unable to obtain the requisite ID without payment of a fee. But in contrast to other states, voters cannot cast a ballot that will be counted by submitting an affidavit at the polls, affirming that they are the registered voter and are otherwise eligible to vote.

balancing test to weigh the legitimate interest in preventing election fraud against the citizen's right to privacy (protecting social security numbers from public disclosure, for example) and the reasonableness of requirements for identity documents. To provide both the clarity and certainty in administration of elections needed to forestall destabilizing challenges to outcomes, these early decisions suggest that best practice may be to limit requirements for voter identification to the minimum needed to prevent duplicate registration and ensure eligibility.

Developments since 2004

Since the passage of HAVA, with its limited requirements for voter identification, and following the 2004 election, debate over voter ID has taken place in state legislatures across the country. That debate has not been characterized by solid information on the consequences of tightening requirements for voters to identify themselves before being permitted to cast a regular, rather than a provisional, ballot.

Better information might improve the quality of the debate. Answers to the following key questions are not available in a form that might satisfy those on both sides of the argument.

- What is the overall incidence of vote fraud?
- How does fraud take place in the various stage of the process: registration, voting at the polls, absentee voting, or ballot counting?
- What contribution can tighter requirements for voter ID make to reducing vote fraud?
- What would be the other consequences of increasingly demanding requirements for voters to identify themselves? This is the question addressed, within the limits of the available data, in the analysis in this report.

Answering these questions would provide the information needed for more informed judgement in the states as they consider the tradeoffs among the competing goals of ballot integrity, ballot access, and administrative efficiency. The Carter-Baker Commission recognized the tradeoffs when it tied recommendation for national ID to an affirmative effort by government to identify unregistered voters and make it easy for them to register.

State Voter Databases and Voter ID

With the implementation of the HAVA Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List, an application for voter registration for an election for Federal office may not be accepted or processed unless the application includes a driver's license number or last four digits of the

The debate over voter ID in the states would be improved by additional research sponsored by the EAC. That might include longitudinal studies of jurisdictions that have changed voter ID requirements, as well as precinct-level analyses that would allow more finely tuned assessment of the correlation between stricter identification requirements and turnouts. Further research could also identify methods to eliminate the need for voters to bring specific identity documents with them to the polls, while assuring that each voter who casts a ballot is eligible and votes only once.

difference," it is equally true that the rejection of a much larger number of eligible voters could make a much bigger difference in the outcome." *Response to the Report of the 2005 Commission on Federal Election Reform*, The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law and Spencer Overton, On Behalf Of The National Network on State Election Reform, September 19, 2005

EAC Statement on Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. HAVA Section 303 (b) mandates that first time voters who register by mail are required to show proof of identity before being allowed to cast a ballot. The law prescribes certain requirements concerning this section, but also leaves considerable discretion to the States for its implementation. The EAC sought to examine how these voter identification requirements were implemented in the 2004 general elections and to prepare guidance for the states on this topic.

In May 2005 EAC entered into a contract with the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the contractor was to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The contractor also performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Using two sets of data-- aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state, and reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau-- the contractor arrived at a series of findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations for further research into the topic which are detailed in the attached report.

EAC Recommendations for further study and next steps

EAC finds this initial review of States' voter identification requirements, state laws and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements an important beginning step in its consideration of voter identification requirements. From this study and compilation of data EAC considers it advisable to engage in a longer-term, systematic review of voter identification requirements and is recommending that at a minimum the agency engage on an ongoing basis in:

- A state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements.
- A review and study of how voter identification requirements are implemented and how these practices may vary from state law and statute.

From this ongoing review and tracking EAC can determine the feasibility and advisability of further research and study into how voter identification requirements have had an impact over time on factors such as voter turnout and voter registration.

EAC believes that the findings from this initial study of voter identification requirements are helping inform additional studies it is conducting on a variety of related topics. The EAC study on first time voters who have registered to vote by mail and several forthcoming studies related to voter registration processes will provide necessary additional data to help inform discussions and debate related to ballot access and ballot security. The EAC also anticipates that follow-on study it does related to election crimes and various aspects of voting accessibility will also help inform and guide these ballot security and ballot access discussions.

Finally, EAC is likely to consider implementing one or more of the following research studies that will serve to augment the work begun by the Eagleton Institute of Politics:

- A study of how certain voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have had an impact on voter turnout and voter registration figures;
- A research study which examines, in greater detail, the relationship between race and voter turnout, and race and methods for registering voters;
- Studies on the inter-relationship between various voter registration processes, voter turnout and number of election crimes reported or litigated;
- Publication of a series of case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with various voter identification and voter registration regimes;
- A policy paper or memorandum exploring the alternatives to current voter identification processes and regimes.

EAC Report on Voter Identification

Executive Summary

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. HAVA Section 303 (b) mandates that first time voters who register by mail are required to show proof of identity before being allowed to cast a ballot. The law prescribes certain requirements concerning this section, but also leaves considerable discretion to the States for its implementation. The EAC sought to examine how these voter identification requirements were implemented in the 2004 general elections and to prepare guidance for the states on this topic.

In May 2005 EAC entered into a contract with the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the contractor was to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The contractor also performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Using two sets of data, aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state, and reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the contractor found the overall relationship between the stringency of ID requirements and turnout to be fairly small, but statistically significant.

Based on The Eagleton Institute year-long inquiry into voter identification requirements EAC will implement one or more of the following recommendations:

- Further research into the connection between voter ID requirements and the number of ballots cast and counted;
- A state-by-state review of the impact that voter ID requirements are having on voter's participation;
- A state-by-state review of the relationship between ballot access and ballot security and the number of voters whose ballot is counted;
- A state-by-state review of time periods between voters casting of provisional ballots and the time allowed to return with an ID as well as a review of acceptable forms of identification other than photo ID.

Introduction

This study was conducted at a time in which considerable attention is being paid to the issue of voter identification. Proponents of stricter identification requirements base their case on improving the security of the ballot by reducing opportunities for multiple voting or voting by those who are not eligible. The goal is to ensure that only those legally entitled to vote do so, and do so only once at each election. Opponents of stricter ID requirements seek to ensure board access to a regular ballot. There is a fear that some voters -- racial and ethnic minorities, young and elderly voters-- lack convenient access to required ID documents, or that these voters may be fearful of submitting their ID documents for official scrutiny.

This report considers policy issues associated with the voter ID debate. It examines the relationships between voter ID requirements and voter turnout along with the various policy implications of the issue.

Methodology of the Study

In May 2005, under contract with the EAC, the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and the Moritz College of Law at the Ohio State University undertook a review and legal analysis of state statutes, regulations and litigation concerning voter identification and provisional voting as well as a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to turnout in the 2004 election. The contract also included research and study related to provisional voting requirements. These research findings were submitted and reviewed by the EAC as a separate study.

The Eagleton Institute of Politics gathered information on the voter identification requirements in 50 states and the District of Columbia for 2004. Based on interpretations of state statutes and supplemental information provided through conversations with state election officials, state ID requirements were divided into five categories, with each category of identification more rigorous than the one preceding: stating name, signing name, signature match, presenting an ID, and the most rigorous, presenting a government photo ID. The Eagleton Institute also categorized and identified each state according to maximum and minimum identification requirements. Maximum requirements refer to the most that voters may be asked to do or show at the polling place. Minimum requirements refer to the most that voters can be required to do or show in order to cast a regular ballot. These definitions and the subsequent state-by-state analysis of voter identification requirements omitted those cases in which a particular voter's eligibility might be questioned using a state's voter ballot challenge process.

Two data sets were used to apply the criteria (variables) that were developed above: aggregate voter turnout data at the county level which was gathered from the EAC's 2004 Election Day Survey and; reports of individual voters collected through the November 2004 Current Population Survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau. Use of EAC

survey data and Census Bureau CPS data provided a way to cross-check the validity of the analysis and conclusions that would be drawn regarding the effect of voter ID requirements on voter turnout.

Study Oversight and Methodological Review

A draft of the Eagleton Institute report and findings on voter identification requirements was critiqued by a peer review group convened by the Eagleton Institute. A second review of the study's research and statistical methodologies was conducted using a group of research and statistical experts independently convened by the EAC. Comments and insights of the peer review group members were taken into account in the drafting of a study report although there was not unanimous agreement among the individual reviewers regarding the study findings and recommendations.

Eagleton report

The Eagleton Institute of Politics Peer Review Group

R Michael Alvarez, California Institute of Technology
John C. Harrison, University of Virginia School of Law
Martha E. Kropf, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Daniel H. Lowenstein, University of California at Los Angeles
Timothy G. O'Rourke, Salisbury University
Bradley Smith, Capital University Law School
Tim Storey, National Conference of State Legislatures
Peter G. Verniero, former Attorney General, State of New Jersey

The EAC Peer Review Group

Jonathan Nagler, New York University
Jan Leighley, University of Arizona
Adam Berninsky, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Summary of the Research

Maximum and Minimum Voter Identification Requirements

In order to analyze what, if any, correlation may exist between a State's voter identification requirements and voter turnout, the Eagleton Institute first coded a state according to how demanding its voter ID requirement was. The voter ID requirement, ranked from lowest to highest was as follows: stating one's name, signing one's name, matching one's signature to a signature on file, providing a form of identification and, providing a form of photo identification. Several possible caveats to this ranking system were noted. For all states which had photo identification requirements in 2004, voters

*do we
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without a photo ID were permitted to cast a regular ballot after signing an affidavit regarding his or her identity and eligibility. These voters were also allowed to provide other forms of ID. The researchers also noted that while each state may be assigned to a category, that categorization may not reflect the actual practice related to voter identification that may or may not have taken place at many polling places.

Research performed for this study by the Moritz College of Law found that states had five different types of **maximum** identification requirements in place on Election Day 2004. For the purposes of this study a requirement that called for a signed affidavit or the provision of other forms of ID was considered the most rigorous or the "maximum" requirement. At the polling place voters were asked to:

- State his or her name (10 states)
- Sign his or her name (13 states and the District of Columbia)
- Sign his or her name, which would be matched to a signature on file (seven states)
- Provide a form of identification that did not necessarily include a photo (15 states)
- Provide a photo identification (five states)

Using the same criteria, but applying them as **minimum** rather than maximum criteria for voting the research showed: **(check this section- it doesn't really make sense)**

- State his or her name (12 states)
- Sign his or her name (14 states and the District of Columbia)
- Matching the voter's signature to the signature on file (6 states)
- Provide a non-photo identification (14 states)
- Swear by an affidavit (4 states)

The results of the research are summarized in Table 1.

Election laws in several states offer exceptions to these ID requirements if potential voters lack the necessary form of identification. Laws in these states set a minimum requirement that a voter may be required to satisfy in order to vote using a regular ballot. In 2004 none of the states required photo identification as a minimum standard for voting with a regular ballot. That is, voters who lacked photo ID were allowed to vote in all states, if he or she was able to meet another ID requirement.

The Relationship of Voter Identification Requirements to Voter Turnout

A statistical analysis examining the variation in turnout rates based on the type of voter ID required by each state in the 2004 election was conducted using two sets of data: 1) aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state (compiled by the Eagleton Institute of Politics-footnote about how they collected the data) and 2) individual level survey data included in the November 2004 Current Population Survey (CPS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The analysis looked at the voter identification requirements as a continuous variable and as a series of discrete variables. As a continuous variable the maximum voter identification requirements were ranked according to how demanding they were judged to be, with photo identification considered to be the most demanding requirement (**what about affidavit????**). Used as discrete variable, the statistical analysis considered stating the name as the least demanding ID requirement; the other ID requirements were then compared to that requirement.

Aggregate-level statistical analysis

The statistical analysis performed by the Eagleton Institute of Politics found that when averaging across counties in each state, statewide turnout is negatively correlated to maximum voter identification requirements ($r = -.30$, p less than .05). When a statistical analysis is performed on the other minimum voter ID requirements (with affidavit being the most demanding requirement), the correlation between voter identification and turnout is negative, but not statistically significant ($r = -.20$, $p = .16$). These findings would suggest that the relationship between turnout rates and minimum requirements may not be linear.

The aggregate data show that 60.9 percent of the estimated citizen voting age population voted in 2004. Taking into account the maximum requirements, an average of 64.6 percent of the voting age population turned out in states that required voters to state their names, compared to 58.1 percent in states that required photo identification. A similar trend was found when analyzing minimum ID requirements. Sixty-three percent of the voting age population turned out in states requiring voters to state their name, compared to 60.1 percent in states that required an affidavit from voters. This analysis showed there was not a clear, consistent linear relationship between turnout and minimum identification requirements.

(insert table 2- Variation in 2004 State Turnout Based on Voter Identification Requirements)

Multivariate models of analysis using aggregate-level data

The Eagleton Institute of Politics performed an additional analysis that would estimate the effects of voter identification requirements, that took into account the electoral context in 2004 and, the demographic characteristics of the population in each county. The model also considers such variables as whether or not the county was 1) in a presidential battleground state, 2) if the county was in a state with a competitive race for government and/or the U.S. Senate, 3) the percentage of voting-age population in each county that was Hispanic or African-American 4) the percentage of county residents age 65 and older, 5) the percent of county residents below the poverty line, and 6) the number of days between each state's registration deadline and the election.

Need a
Simpler
Version, too.

The results of this statistical modeling and subsequent analysis indicated that the stricter voter ID requirements of matching a voter's signature to a signature on file or with presenting a non-photo identification are associated with lower voter turnout when compared to voter turnout in states that required voters to simply state his or her name. These conclusions were reached when variables 1-5 listed above were held constant.

Other results from the Eagleton Institute analysis of stricter voter identification requirements showed that:

- Increased voter turnout was associated with whether the county was in a battleground state or whether that state have a competitive race for governor and/or U.S.Senate.
- A slight negative effect on turnout was correlated with those state's with a longer time between the closing date for registration and the election.
- Voter turnout declined as the percentage of Hispanics in a county's population increased.
- Higher turnout (and a positive correlation) was associated with a higher percentage of senior citizens and household median income.
- The percentage of African-Americans in the county did not have a significant effect on turnout.

The Eagleton Institute analysis of minimum voter identification requirements showed that:

- A relationship between minimum voter ID requirements and turnout was not demonstrated.
- Battleground states and those with competitive state races had a significant and positive correlation to turnout.
- A higher percentage of senior citizens in the county and higher household median income were associated with higher turnout and showed a positive correlation to turnout.
- The percentage of Hispanics in the county was associated with reduced turnout.
- The increased number of days between the closing date for registration was associated with reduced turnout.

The analysis of these aggregate, county-level data showed a significant correlation, between maximum voter identification requirements (a signature match and non-photo

What does ⁶ this mean?

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identification, but not a photo identification) and lower turnout in the 2004 election. This correlation was also significant when compared to the minimum voter ID requirement of the voter simply having to state his or her name.

Multivariate analysis using individual level turnout data

This analysis which used November 2004 Current Population Survey data conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau is based on reports from self-described registered voters. Not included in the analysis are persons who said they are not registered to vote, those who said they cast absentee ballots and those who said they were not U.S. citizens. The CPS' Voting and Registration Supplement consisted of interviews, either by telephone or in person, with 96,452 respondents. (why is the N is Table 3 54,973?)

In addition to the five maximum voter identification requirements (enumerated on page XX) the analysis performed included other socioeconomic, demographic and political factors that could have influenced turnout in the 2004 election. These independent variables were analyzed against the dependent variable of whether or not the respondent said he or she voted in the November 2004 election.

In this analysis three of the voter identification requirements were shown to have a statistically significant correlation with whether or not the survey respondents said they have voted in 2004. Lower voter turnout was associated with:

- those states with maximum voter requirements to sign one's name,
- those states with maximum voter requirements to provide a non-photo ID or photo ID, or
- those states with the minimum voter requirement to swear by an affidavit in order to cast a ballot without the state-required identification

Increased voter turnout showed:

- A significant correlation with the competitiveness of the Presidential race **(explain)**.
- African-American voters were more likely than white or other voters to say they have voted.
- Income and marital status were positive predictors of voting **(high income or low income, single, married?)**,
- Women were more likely to say they voted than men.
- Those ages 45 to 64 and 65 and older were more likely to say they voted than those ages 18 to 24.
- Those who earned a high school diploma, attended some college, graduated from college or attended graduate school were more likely to say they have voted than those who had not finished high school.

Analysis of the predicted probability of voter turnout using the individual data

Using this Census Bureau Current Population Survey data the Eagleton Institute of Politics performed an additional statistical analysis in which they calculated the effect of various independent variables on the probability that a respondent said he or she voted. This analysis, involving 54,973 voters cross-tabulated the maximum and minimum voter identification requirements in each state with the five levels of voting requirements: stating name, signing name, matching the signature, a non-photo ID, photo-ID signing an affidavit. The results of these **Predicted Probability of Voter Turnout for all Voter** tabulations are summarized in Table 3 below:

From this analysis, the Eagleton Institute of Politics found that three of the voter identification requirements (**which ones?**) exerted a statistically significant, negative effect on whether or not the CPS survey respondents said they had voted in 2004. That is, compared to states that require voters to only state their name, those states which require the voter to sign his or her name, to provide a non-photo ID, or to provide a photo ID as a maximum requirement, were shown to have a negative influence on turnout. Also, a negative influence on turnout was found when comparing those states that require voters to only state their name, as compared to those states which have as a minimum requirement for verifying voter ID, signing an affidavit.

This probability analysis also found that the competitiveness of the presidential race had a significant effect on turnout as well as some significant demographic and educational effects. For the entire voting population signature, non-photo ^W identification and photo identification requirements were all associated with lower turnout rates compared to the requirements that voter simply state their names. The analysis further found that:

- based on?*
- The predicted probability that Hispanics would vote in states that required non-photo identification was about 10 percentage points lower than in states where Hispanic voters gave their names and that Hispanic voters were less likely to vote in states that required non-photo identification as opposed to only having to state one's name.
 - Hispanic voters were 10 percent less likely to vote in non-photo identification states compared to states where voters only had to give their name. African American and Asian-American voters were about 6 percent less likely, while white voters were about 2 percent less likely.
 - Asian-American voters were 8.5 percent less likely to vote in states that required non-photo identification compared to states that require voters to state their names under the maximum requirements, while they were 6.1

How does this compare to "normal" factors such as whether the race is hotly contested?

percent less likely to vote where non-photo identification was the minimum requirement.

- For those with less than a high school diploma, the probability of voting was 5.1 percent lower in states that required photo identification as the maximum requirement and 7 percent lower in those states that required an affidavit as the minimum requirement. These percentages were arrived at when comparing these states to ones that use as a minimum or maximum requirement, the voter to merely state his or her name.

Conclusions from the statistical analysis

The statistical analysis found that as voter identification requirements vary, so do voter turnout rates. These findings were borne out through analyses conducted on aggregate data and individual-level data. There were, however, some distinctions found depending upon whether or not the state's particular voter identification requirements were set as minimums or maximums.

- The overall relationship between voter identification requirements and turnout for all registered voters was found to be small but statistically significant.
- Using the aggregate data the signature match and the non-photo identification requirement correlated with lower turnout. The photo identification requirement did not have a statistically significant effect.
- In the individual-level data the signature, no-photo identification and photo identification requirement were all correlated with lower turnout when compared to the requirements that voter simply state their names.
- Across various demographic groups (African-Americans, Asian-Americans and Hispanics) a statistically significant relationship was found between the non-photo identification requirement and voter turnout

Caveats to the Analysis

The Eagleton Institute for Politics and the EAC make note that while this analysis is a good beginning, significant questions remain regarding the relationship between voter identification requirements and turnout. These analyses are unable, for example, to capture how or why identification requirements might lower turnout. That is, is it because voters are aware of the identification requirements and stay away from the polls because of them? Alternatively, do the requirements result in some voters being turned away when they cannot provide the identification, or must cast a provisional ballot?

Knowing more about the "on the ground" experience of voters regarding various identification requirements will guide state and local level policy makers in their efforts to educate voters about the requirements. These experiences could also help instruct election judges on how to handle questions and possible disputes over voter identification requirements.

poll workers

Public Policy and Administrative Considerations

Voter Identification, often described as the critical step in protecting the integrity of the ballot, is a process which can ensure that the potential voter is eligible and, if eligible, is permitted to cast one ballot. A voting system that requires voters to produce an identification document or documents may prevent the ineligible from voting, but also may prevent the eligible from casting a ballot.

Evaluating the effect of different voter identification regimes can be most effective when based on clear legal, equitable and practical standards. The questions outlined below might point policymakers to standards that can be created around voter identification requirements.

1. Is the voter ID system designed on the basis of valid and reliable empirical studies the will address concerns regarding certain types of voting fraud?
2. Does the voter ID requirement comply with the letter and spirit of the Voting Rights Act?
3. How effective is the voter ID requirement on increasing the security of the ballot and can it be coordinated with the statewide voter registration database?
4. How feasible is the voter identification requirement? That is, are there administrative or budgetary considerations or concerns? How easy or difficult will it be for pollworkers who must administer the requirement?
5. How cost effective is the voter ID system? That is, what are the monetary and non-monetary costs to the voter and to the state for implementing the ID system?
6. If voter ID requirements are shown to reduce voter turnout (generally, or with some particular groups), what possible steps should be taken to ameliorate this problem?

Recommendations and Next Steps

As the Federal agency charged with informing election officials and the public about various issues related to the administration of elections EAC believes it should, in its capacity as a supporter of elections research, undertake additional study into the topic of voter identification requirements and the implementation of them in the following ways:

- Longitudinal studies of jurisdictions that have changed voter identification requirements.

- State-by-state and precinct-level analyses that will examine the correlations between various voter identification requirements and voter registration and turnout
- Alternative forms and methods for verifying a voter's identity.
- Continuing research into the connection between various voter identification requirements and the number of ballots cast and counted
- A continuing state-by-state update on changes to voter identification requirements.
- Continued collection of state-by-state data which will help examine the impact that voter identification requirements are having on the number of voters who are casting provisional ballots because of voter identification verification issues.

Appendix A: Summary of Voter Identification Requirements by State

Appendix B: Court Decisions and Literature on Voter Identification and Related Issue Court Decisions

Appendix C: Annotated Bibliography on Voter Identification Issues

**Deliberative Process
Privilege**

EAC Statement on Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. In May 2005, EAC ~~entered into a contract~~ with Rutgers, ~~The the State~~ University of New Jersey through its Eagleton Institute of Politics ("Contractor") to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the ~~contractor~~ Contractor was asked to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and to recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The ~~contractor~~ Contractor performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Using two sets of data-- aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state, and reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau-- the ~~contractor~~ Contractor arrived at a series of findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations for further research into the topic.

The ~~contractor~~ Contractor presented testimony summarizing its findings from this statistical and data analysis at ~~a the~~ February 8, 2007 public meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's testimony, its summary of voter identification requirements by State, its summary of court decisions and literature on voter identification and related issues, an annotated bibliography on voter identification issues and its summary of state statutes and regulations affecting voter identification are attached to this report and can also be found on EAC's website, www.EACeac.gov.

EAC Recommendations for further study and next steps

EAC finds the ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements, to be an important first step in the Commission's consideration of voter identification requirements.

However, EAC has concerns regarding the research and statistical methodology the ~~contractor~~ Contractor chose to employ in order to analyze voter identification requirements. Therefore, EAC is not adopting the ~~contractor's~~ Contractor's full report that was submitted and is not releasing this report

EAC will engage in a longer-term, more systematic review of voter identification requirements and the potential variation in turnout rates based on the types of voter identification requirements. EAC's additional study on the topic will include more than

one Federal election cycle, examine additional environmental and political factors that effect voter participation, and consider the numerous changes in state laws and regulations related to voter identification requirements that have occurred since 2004.

EAC will undertake the following activities:-

- ~~Conduct A~~an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identify.
- ~~Using some of the information collected by Eagleton and assembling data from states, EAC will~~Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.
- ~~Convening~~Convene, by mid-2007, a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include specific issues to be covered in the study, research and statistical methodologies to be employed and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- ~~A~~Study of how certain voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have had an impacted on voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender.
- ~~Publication of~~ a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.
- ~~A state by state~~Tracking state policies and procedures for early voting, absentee voting, and vote-by-mail policies and procedures. The data collected through this tracking will then be compared to various state voter identification policies and procedures.

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EAC Statement on Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

asked ("Contractor")
The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. In May 2005 EAC entered into a contract with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey through its Eagleton Institute of Politics to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the contractor was to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The contractor performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Using two sets of data-- aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state, and reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau-- the contractor arrived at a series of findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations for further research into the topic.

Comment [GRI]: In respect to the last sentence paragraph one above, it is my opinion that it would have been reasonable for Eagleton to have considered the statistical analysis the contractor has been covering by that task. Therefore, I recommend striking the word "also" from this sentence.

the
The contractor presented testimony summarizing its findings from this statistical and data analysis at a February 8, 2007 public meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The contractor's testimony, its summary of voter identification requirements by State, its summary of court decisions and literature on voter identification and related issues, an annotated bibliography on voter identification issues and its summary of state statutes and regulations affecting voter identification are attached to this report and can also be found on EAC's website, www.EAC.gov.

EAC Recommendations for further study and next steps

EAC finds the contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements, to be an important first step in the Commission's consideration of voter identification requirements.

However, EAC has concerns regarding the research and statistical methodology the contractor chose to employ in order to analyze voter identification requirements. Therefore, EAC is not adopting the contractor's full report that was submitted and is not releasing this report. Therefore, EAC will engage in a longer-term, more systematic review of voter identification requirements and the potential variation in turnout rates based on the types of voter identification requirements. --EAC's additional study on the topic will include more than one Federal election cycle, examine additional environmental and political factors that effect voter participation, and consider the

numerous changes in state laws and regulations related to voter identification requirements that have occurred since 2004.

EAC will undertake the following activities:

Conducting
An ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identity.

- Using ~~some of the information collected by Eagleton and assembling data from states, EAC will establish~~ a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors.

EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton and
Comment (GH2): I cannot craft the word

- Convening, by mid-2007, a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include specific issues to be covered in the study, research and statistical methodologies to be employed and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.

- *ing* A study of how certain voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have had an *impacted* impact on voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study would be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and race and gender.

will assemble additional data from the states to facilitate developing this baseline.

- *Publishing* Publication of a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating pollworkers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies would be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform pollworkers and voters.

- A state-by-state Tracking of early voting, absentee voting, and vote-by-mail policies and procedures. The data collected through this tracking would then be compared to various state voter identification policies and procedures.

State-by-state

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EAC Statement on Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. In May 2005, EAC contracted with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey through its Eagleton Institute of Politics ("Contractor") to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the Contractor was asked to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and to recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The Contractor performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Using two sets of data-- aggregate turnout data at the county level for each state, and reports of individual voters collected in the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau-- the Contractor arrived at a series of findings, conclusions and subsequent recommendations for further research into the topic.

The Contractor presented testimony summarizing its findings from this statistical and data analysis at the February 8, 2007 public meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The Contractor's testimony, its summary of voter identification requirements by State, its summary of court decisions and literature on voter identification and related issues, an annotated bibliography on voter identification issues and its summary of state statutes and regulations affecting voter identification are attached to this report and can also be found on EAC's website, www.eac.gov.

EAC Recommendations for further study and next steps

EAC finds the Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements, to be a first step in the Commission's consideration of voter identification requirements.

However, EAC has concerns regarding the ^{data analysis} research and statistical methodology the Contractor chose to employ in order to analyze voter identification requirements and the potential variation in turnout rates based on the type of voter identification requirements. *She Contractor*
Thus, EAC is not adopting the report submitted by the Contractor and, therefore, is not releasing the report.

will not be issuing a report based upon this study.
EAC will engage in a longer-term, more systematic review of voter identification requirements. Additional study on the topic will include more than one Federal election

→ EAC believes that Contractor's recommendation is so fundamentally flawed that none of the draft findings can ~~possibly~~ be adopted or rehabilitated to form a reliable and accurate federal product.

used a single election's statistics, including statistics provided through the Census Bureau that clearly include persons who were not eligible to and did not vote. Furthermore, the categorization of voter identification requirements included classifications that actually require no identification at all. These data and the statistical analysis used by Contractor were rightly criticized by an independent working and peer review group composed of social scientists and statisticians.

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cycle, additional environmental and political factors that effect voter participation, and the numerous changes in state laws and regulations related to voter identification requirements that have occurred since 2004.

EAC will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identify.
- Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.
- Convene, by mid-2007, a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include methodology, specific issues to be covered in the study and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- Study how voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have impacted voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud, study the effects of voter identification provisions, or the lack thereof, on early, absentee and vote-by-mail voting. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender.
- Publish a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.

voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.

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FINAL DRAFT REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EAC VOTER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Report Background

This report to the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) presents an analysis of voter identification requirements across the country and makes recommendations for best practices to improve implementation of voter ID requirements at the polls. It is based on research conducted by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, and the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University under a contract to the EAC, dated May 24, 2005. The research included a review and legal analysis of state statutes, regulations and litigation concerning voter identification and provisional voting, a sample survey of local election officials, and a statistical analysis of the effects of various requirements for voter identification on turnout in the 2004 election. This report is a companion to a report on Provisional Voting submitted to the EAC on November 28, 2005 under the same contract.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) (Public Law 107-252) authorizes the EAC (Sec. 241, 42 USC 15381) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. The purpose of these studies is to promote methods for voting and administering elections, including provisional voting, that are convenient, accessible and easy to use; that yield accurate, secure and expeditious voting systems; that afford each registered and eligible voter an equal opportunity to vote and to have that vote counted; and that are efficient.

Executive Summary

Methods

To explore the effects of voter ID requirements on electoral participation in 2004, as measured by turnout, we gathered information on the requirements in effect in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in that year. We assigned each state to one of five categories based on its ID requirements. The five categories are progressively more rigorous based on the demands they make on both voters¹ (and, to some extent) on election workers. The categories range from "Stating Name" which we judge to be somewhat less demanding than "Signing Name." "Signature Match" requires poll workers to examine the signature and compare it to a sample,

¹ Even the most relaxed provisions for identification at the polls — anything stricter than the honor system used in North Dakota — will impose some burden on particular voters. *Harvard Law Review* 119:1146

FINAL D R A F T

voters to state their names, compared to 57.3 percent in states that required photo identification. Those figures, however, probably overstate the effect since the inclusion of other factors beyond voter ID requirements in the analysis diminishes the extent of influence of voter ID on turnout. After taking account of the other factors, the analysis still offers some support for the hypothesis that as the burden of voter identification requirements increases, turnout declines. The effect is particularly noticeable in counties with concentrations of Hispanic residents or people living below the poverty line.

Our analysis of litigation suggests that the courts will look strictly at requirements that voters produce a photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot. The courts have used a balancing test to weigh the legitimate interest in preventing election fraud against the citizen's right to privacy (protecting social security numbers from public disclosure, for example) and the reasonableness of requirements for identity documents. To provide both the clarity and certainty in administration of elections needed to forestall destabilizing challenges to outcomes, best practice for the states may be to limit requirements for voter identification to the minimum needed to prevent duplicate registration and ensure eligibility.

Evidence on the incidence of vote fraud, especially on the kind of vote fraud that could be reduced by requiring more rigorous voter identification is not now sufficient to evaluate the tradeoffs between ensuring ballot access and ensuring ballot integrity. The lack of full understanding of the dynamics of voter ID requirements on political participation can be remedied by requiring the collection and reporting of data on the reasons potential voters are required to cast a provisional ballot and the reasons for rejecting provisional ballots during the 2006 and subsequent elections. Also useful would be the results of exit polling of voters on their experiences in meeting voter ID requirements and on what type of ballot they cast.² And, of course, more information is needed on the incidence and varieties of vote fraud, but that inquiry is outside the scope of this report.

A voting system that requires voters to produce an identify document or documents may indeed prevent the ineligible from voting. It may also prevent eligible voters from casting a ballot. If the

² Arizona held its first election with new, stricter ID requirements on March 14, 2006. In at least one county (Maricopa) election officials handed a survey to voters that asked if they knew about the voter identification law and if they did, how they found out about it. Edythe Jensen, "New Voter ID Law Goes Smoothly in Chandler," *Arizona Republic*, March 15, 2006. More surveys of this kind can illuminate the dynamics of voter ID and voting in ways not possible with the current lack of information on this subject.

FINAL D R A F T

were found ineligible to cast a regular ballot. The answers would illuminate the frequency with which ID issues divert voters into the provisional ballot line.

- Polling to ask voters what they know about the voter id requirements would also provide useful context for evaluating the effect of various voter ID requirements on electoral participation.
- Encourage states to examine the time period allowed for voters who cast a provisional ballot because they lacked required ID to return with their identification. In eleven states, voters who had to cast a provisional ballot because they lacked the ID required for a regular ballot were permitted to return later with their ID. Their provision of this ID is the critical step in evaluating the ballots. The length of the period in which the voter may return with ID is important. In setting the time period for return, which now varies among the states from the same day to about two weeks, states should consider three factors: the convenience of the voter, the total time allowed to evaluate ballots³, and the safe harbor provision in presidential elections.
- Recommendations to the states from EAC should reflect current judicial trends. Requirements that voters provide some identifying documentation have been upheld, where photo ID is *not* the only acceptable form. Whether laws requiring photo ID will be upheld is more doubtful. To date, only one court has considered a law requiring voters to show photo ID (*Common Cause v. Billups*), and that court concluded that this requirement is likely unconstitutional.

Background and Approach of the Study

Establishing the eligibility of a person to vote has long been part of the electoral process. Voters may have to identify themselves twice in the electoral process: when registering to vote and then when casting a ballot. The stress on voters to provide required ID documents may be greater at the polls on Election Day than when registering. The pressures arising from the need to check ID, even so simple a check as a signature match, can be greater at the polls on Election Day than at the time of registration. Poll workers may be faced with long lines and limited time.

³ Our research on provisional voting reveals that states that provide more than week to evaluate provisional ballots end up counting substantially more of those ballots than states that provide less than a week.

FINAL D R A F T

A voting system that requires voters to produce an identity document or documents may prevent the ineligible from voting. It may also prevent the eligible from casting a ballot. If the ID requirements block ineligible voters from the polls at the cost of preventing eligible voters who cannot obtain or have left at home the required forms of identification, the integrity of the ballot may not have been improved; the harm may be as great as the benefit.

Assessing the effectiveness of voter ID as a way to protect the integrity of the ballot should logically include an estimate of the nature and frequency of vote fraud. The EAC has informed us that it has commissioned a separate analysis of the incidence of vote fraud. Consequently, this research does not include consideration of vote fraud nor the possible effectiveness of various voter ID regimes to counter attempts at vote fraud. As a result, our analysis of the effects of voter ID requirements on turnout cannot take into account how many potential voters who did not turn out under comparatively stricter voter ID requirements might have been ineligible or eligible to vote.

In some states, voters lacking required ID, or who have ID that does not reflect their current address, are able to vote only by casting a provisional ballot.⁷ Voter ID requirements that require voters to bring a document to the polls—rather than simply sign their names—can divert more voters to the provisional ballot. Requiring poll workers to request and check ID, can put stress on the already demanding environment of the polling place. Scrutiny of ID can create lines at the polling places. Further delays can result when voters cast a provisional ballot and fill out the ballot envelope. Voters who cast a provisional ballot because they lack their ID on Election Day, and who then fail to return with the needed document or documents, will have their ballot rejected.⁸ And, of course, the cost of processing provisional ballots is greater than the cost of regular ballots.

Each of these potential consequences of more elaborate voter identification processes can increase the chance of litigation. Long lines will, at best, discourage voters and at worst make voting seem a hassle, an impression that could keep more citizens (even those with ID) from the

⁷ For example, the Florida voter ID law adopted after the 2004 election and pre-cleared by the Department of Justice, permits voters who cannot meet the ID requirements to sign an affidavit on the envelope of a provisional ballot, which will be counted if the signature matches that on the voter's registration form.

⁸ The EAC's Election Day Study found "improper ID," to be the third most common reason for a provisional ballot to be rejected. "Improper ID" was cited by 7 states responding to the survey, compared to 14 mentions for voting in the wrong precinct. *Election Day Study*, Chapter 6, p. 5.

FINAL D R A F T

impact statement that demonstrated the nexus between the identification regime and the integrity of the ballot could provide protection against inevitable legal challenges.

5. If a side effect of the Voter ID regulation is likely to reduce turnout, generally or among particular groups, is it possible to take other steps to ameliorate the adverse consequences?¹³
6. Does it comply with the letter and spirit of Voting Rights Act?
7. The seventh question is the most difficult to answer. Does the Voter ID requirement have a neutral result on the composition of the qualified and eligible electorate? ID requirements should not be designed to, or unintentionally, reduce the turnout of particular groups of voters or supporters of one party or another. Whatever the requirement may be, can all citizens comply with it easily and at no or minimal cost?

Voter ID and Turnout

As of the 2004 election, the states and the District of Columbia could be divided into 5 different Voter ID regimes. These are shown in Table 1, *Voter ID Requirements*. Nine states required that voters give their names; 14 that they sign their names; 8 match the signature to a sample in the registration book; 15 require some form of ID (ranging from a utility bill to a government-issued photo ID), and 5 states in 2004 required a photo ID, although in all those states voters without that credential could cast a regular ballot after signing an affidavit concerning their identity and eligibility or provide other forms of ID.

This neat assignment in the following table and map of each state to one category no doubt fails to reflect actual practice at many polling places. Like any system run by fallible people, the voter ID process is subject to wide variation in practice. Voters may be confronted with demands for identification different from the directives in state statutes or regulation. Some voters may be waved through the process without a look at any document, no matter what the regulations say. Under the press of long lines and unfamiliar requirements, there is, in short, no sure way to report the wide variety of conditions voters actually encounter.

administering elections will courts likely demonstrate greater willingness to uphold strict identification requirements." Harvard Law Review 127:1144 (2006)

¹³ For example, the Carter-Baker Commission coupled its recommendation for a national voter ID card to a call for an affirmative effort by the states to reach out and register the unregistered, that is, to use the new Voter ID regime as a means to enroll more voters. Similarly, Richard Hasen Hasen's has suggested combining a national voter ID with universal registration. See his "Beyond the Margin of Litigation: Reforming U.S. Election Administration to Avoid Electoral Meltdown," 62 Washington and Lee Law Review 937 (2005).

FINAL D R A F T

Utah	Give Name	HAVA	Give Name	Bring ID Later
Vermont	Give Name	HAVA	Give Name	Affidavit
Virginia	Provide ID	HAVA	Provide ID	Affidavit
Washington	Sign Name	Provide ID	Provide ID	Address & Registration
West Virginia	Match Sig.	HAVA	Match Sig.	Address & Registration
Wisconsin	Give Name	HAVA	Give Name	Bring ID Later
Wyoming	Give Name	HAVA	Give Name	Affidavit

^In Florida and Louisiana, states that required a photo id in 2004, voters without that credential could sign an affidavit concerning their identity and eligibility and cast a regular ballot.

^^In these states in 2004, voters lacking a photo ID could vote by providing other ID.

*Arizona voters who lack a photo ID may present 2 forms of ID with no photograph, such as 2 utility bills.

**State only requires ID for first-time voters who register by mail without providing ID. They accept all forms of ID listed in the statute.

***Georgia is currently enjoined from implementing this law, returning them for the time being to their 2004 requirement of provide ID.

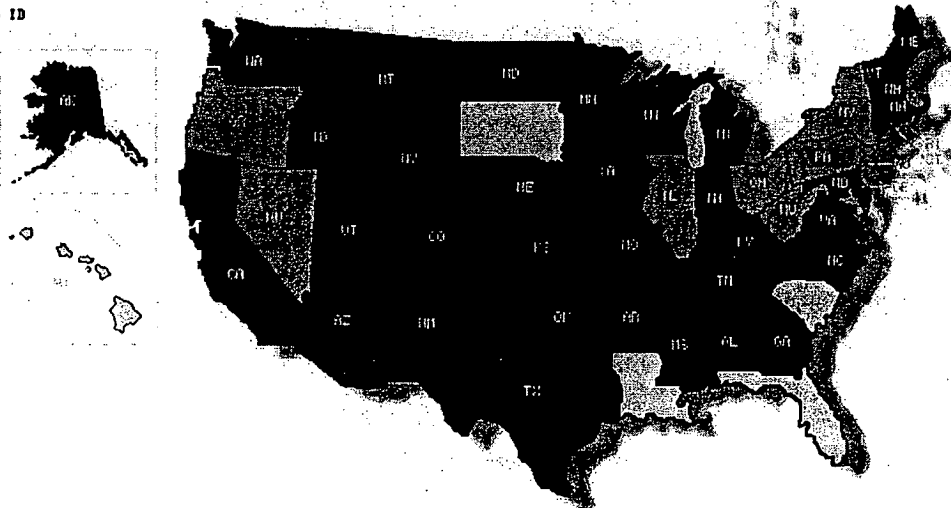
****Pennsylvania requires ID of all first-time voters, whether they registered by mail or in-person.

*****Tennessee voters must provide signature and address. In counties without computerized lists, the signature is compare to the registration card. In counties with computerized lists, the signature is compared to a signature on ID presented with registration.

*****Texas voters must present a current registration certificate. Those without a certificate can vote provisionally after completing an affidavit.

Figure 1

- ◆ - Give Name
- ◆ - Sign Name
- ◆ - Match Signature
- ◆ - ID
- ◆ - Photo ID



Voter ID Requirements 2004

FINAL D R A F T

Methods and Findings

We classified each state as having one of five types of identification requirements in place on Election Day 2004. Upon arrival at polling places, voters had to either: state their names (9 states); sign their names (13 states and the District of Columbia); match their signature to a signature on file with the local election board (8 states); provide a form of identification that did not necessarily include a photo (15 states); or provide a photo identification (5 states). We then tested the assumption that voter identification requirements would prove to be increasingly demanding on the voter, with providing photo ID the most rigorous.

The analysis recognized that election laws in numerous states offer exceptions to these requirements if a prospective voter lacked the ID. Laws in those states set a minimum standard that a voter must meet in order to vote using a regular ballot. We therefore also categorized states based on the minimum requirement for voting with a regular ballot. None of the states required photo identification as a minimum standard for voting with a regular ballot. Four states, however, required voters to swear an affidavit as to their identity (Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, and North Dakota). The five categories for minimum requirements were: state name (12 states), sign name (14 states and the District of Columbia), match one's signature to a signature on file (six states), provide a non-photo identification (14 states), or swear an affidavit (four states). This analysis treats the array of minimum identification requirements also in terms of increasing demand on the voter: state name, sign name, match signature, provide non-photo identification, and, given the potential legal consequences for providing false information, swearing an affidavit is regarded as the most rigorous.

Voter turnout at the state level in 2004 declined as voter identification requirements became more demanding, as shown in Table 2. While the trend is not perfectly linear, there is a general movement toward lower turnout as requirements tend toward requiring greater levels of proof. Using the maximum requirements as the independent variable, an average of 63.1 percent of the voting age population turned out in states that required voters to state their names, compared to 57.3 percent in states that required photo identification. A similar trend emerged when using the minimum requirements as the independent variable. Sixty-one percent of the voting age population turned out in states requiring voters to state their names, compared to 58.7 percent in states that required an affidavit from voters.

FINAL D R A F T

Information collected for the Census Bureau Current Population Survey in November 2004 makes it possible to examine the influence of voter ID requirements at the individual level. Self-identified registered voters reported their experience at the polls in the survey. Note that the voter turnout rate for the CPS sample, an average of 89%, is much higher than the turnout rates presented in the aggregate data analysis, which average 58%. The difference is a result of several factors, including different denominators in calculating the turnout rate – self-reported registered voters in the CPS versus the much larger voting-age population for the aggregate data. Also some survey respondents overstate their incidence of voting. Nevertheless, the CPS serves as a widely accepted source of data on voting behavior.

The dependent variable in the individual analyses is whether respondents said they voted in the 2004 election. As in the aggregate analysis the contextual variables consist of whether the state was a battleground state or had competitive state-level races. The analysis also controlled for gender, age, education, household income, race or ethnicity, and employment status, marital status, and residential mobility.

The analysis revealed that voter identification requirements exerted a statistically significant, negative effect on whether survey respondents said they had voted in 2004. Of the other state factors, only the competitiveness of the presidential race had a significant effect on turnout. In terms of demographic influences, consistent with previous research, age, education, income, and marital status all were positive predictors of voting. Women also were more likely to say they voted than men. Those who had moved within six months before the interview were less likely to say they had voted.

Allowing the voter identification requirement to vary while holding constant all other variables in the model showed that the predicted probability of turnout ranged from 91.2 percent if all voters had to state their names to 88.7 percent if all voters had to provide photo identification. (Note that these turnout figures are higher than actual because of the factors involved in the CPS's self-reported survey, but that the difference in effect is reasonably related to the results obtained in the aggregate analysis.) In other words, the probability of voting dropped with each level of the maximum voter identification requirement, with a total drop of 2.5 percent across the five types of identification. When taking into account the minimum requirement for identification, the probability showed a similar decline, with a slightly larger total drop of 3.3 percent.

FINAL D R A F T

- Self-reported registered voters who had not graduated from high school would be 6.7 percent less likely to vote if the maximum requirement is photo identification as opposed to stating one's name. When considering the minimum requirements, those with less than a high school education would be 7.4 percent less likely to say they voted if the requirement was an affidavit as opposed to stating one's name.
- Age was also a key factor, with voters ages 18 to 24 being 7.7 percent to 8.9 percent less likely to vote as the requirements ranged from stating one's name to providing a photo identification or affidavit.
- Two concerns aired by critics of voter identification requirements were not borne out by the results. African-American voters did not appear to be affected by voter identification requirements, according to both the aggregate data and individual-level data analyses. Also, the self-reports of elderly voters, while indicating that they would be slightly less likely to vote as ID requirements become stricter, do not show a dramatic effect.

The data examined in this analysis could not capture the dynamics of how identification requirements lower turnout. Do know the voter ID and stay away from the polls because they cannot or do not want to meet them? Or, do the requirements result in some voters being turned away when they cannot meet the requirements on Election Day? The CPS data do not include measures that can answer these questions, pointing up the need for collection of additional data. Knowing more about the "on the ground" experiences of voters concerning identification requirements could guide policy-makers at the state and local level in determining whether and at what point in the electoral cycle a concerted public information campaign might be most effective in helping voters to meet identification requirements. Such knowledge also could help in designing training for poll workers to handle questions about, and potential disputes over, voter identification requirements.

It is important to note that the 2004 data do not allow us to draw conclusions about the effect of laws such as those recently passed in Georgia and Indiana, which require government-issued photo ID. No such laws were in place in 2004, and the five states that then required photo ID at the time allowed voters who signed an affidavit or provided another form of identification to cast a regular ballot.

FINAL D R A F T

Prelim. Inj. 96, 104). In January 2006, Georgia enacted a modified version of its photo ID law, which the court has not yet ruled on. In the other state that has enacted a photo ID requirement without an affidavit exception (Indiana), legal challenges have also been filed. (*Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita* and *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*). Cross-motions for summary judgment are currently pending. Another case of significance, for purposes of photo ID requirements, is *American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota v. Kiffmeyer*, No. 04-CV-4653, 2004 WL 2428690, at *1 (D. Minn. Oct. 28, 2004). In that case, the court enjoined a Minnesota law that allowed the use of tribal photo ID cards, only for an Indian who lived on the reservation. 2004 WL 2428690, at *1. The Court found no rational basis for distinguishing based on whether or not the cardholder lives on the reservation. *Id.* at *1, 3. The court's decision in this case indicates that courts are likely to look strictly on photo ID requirements.

Privacy. In *Greidinger v. Davis*, 988 F.2d 1344 (4th Cir. 1993), the court struck down on due process grounds a Virginia law requiring disclosure of voters' social security numbers for voter registration. The social security numbers recorded in voter registration lists had been disclosed to the public and political parties that had requested the lists. The court found that the requirement to give the social security number effectively conditioned rights on the consent to an invasion of privacy. It concluded that this public disclosure of the social security numbers was not necessary to achieve the government's interest in preventing fraud. On the other hand, in *McKay v. Thompson*, 226 F.3d 752 (6th Cir. 2000), the court rejected privacy challenges based on both the Constitution and federal statutes, to a Tennessee law requiring social security numbers for voter registration since 1972. 226 F.3d at 755. Second, the NVRA only permits requiring the minimum amount of information necessary to prevent duplicate voter registration and to determine eligibility. The distinction appears to be between the use of Social Security numbers for internal purposes only, which was deemed permissible, and the disclosure of those numbers to the public which was not.

These decisions suggest that the courts will look strictly at requirements that voters produce a photo ID in order to cast a regular ballot. The courts have used a balancing test to weigh the legitimate interest in preventing election fraud against the citizen's right to privacy (protecting social security numbers from public disclosure, for example) and the reasonableness of requirements for identity documents. To provide both the clarity and certainty in administration of elections needed to forestall destabilizing challenges to outcomes, these early decisions

FINAL DRAFT

HAVA does not require that the states notify registrants to remedy any failure to provide either of these numbers or to confirm that they have provided a verifiable number. Verification at the time of registration could forestall difficulties at the polling place. HAVA is silent on how the ID might be required at the polling place for new voters whose driving license or Social Security number could not be verified. Errors in recording those numbers are sure to occur.

Some states are wrestling now with these unresolved issues. In New Jersey, for example, pending legislation would require that voters must be able to confirm their registration through a secure access to the SVRL. It also requires voters to present ID at the polls in order to cast a regular ballot if the numbers recorded on the registration have not been verified (or if no verifiable number appears on the registration). It recognizes the HAVA requirement that if the number provided by the voter has not been verified and if the voter does not present ID at the polls, that voter may cast a provisional ballot. The bill does not specify they have to provide ID within 48 hours in order for their vote to count, as is the case with first-time mail-in registrants.

As some states gain experience in this area, the EAC would perform a useful service by making timely recommendations of best practices for all states to consider.

6. Conclusions

The form of Voter ID required of voters affects turnout. Lack of ID can keep voters from the polls. Or, when they go to the polls, it is reasonable to conclude that stricter Voter ID requirements will divert more voters into the line for provisional ballots. (This conclusion is a conjecture because we lack good data on why voters must cast their ballots provisionally.) The result can be longer lines at the polls and confusion, without a clear demonstration that the security of the ballot is correspondingly increased.¹⁵

The dynamics of Voter ID requirements—how the more rigorous Voter ID requirements—affect the decision by potential voters to go or stay away from the polls are not well understood. This lack of understanding should be recognized in the policy process. The debate over voter ID in

¹⁵ In this connection, the Brennan Center's response to the Carter-Baker Commission report observes that, "while it might be true that in a close election "a small amount of fraud could make the margin of difference," it is equally true that the rejection of a much larger number of eligible voters could make a much bigger difference in the outcome." *Response to the Report of the 2005 Commission on Federal Election Reform*, The Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law and Spencer Overton, On Behalf Of The National Network on State Election Reform, September 19, 2005

FINAL D R A F T

Appendices

- a. Summary of case law on Voter ID issues (included with this draft)
- b. Analysis of Effects of Voter ID Requirements on Turnout (attached as a separate document)
- c. Indexed database of major articles on Voter ID Requirements and related topics (included with this draft)
- d. Compendium of states' legislation, procedures, and litigation

FINAL D R A F T

- Preventing voter fraud is a compelling interest since it is irreversible once vote is cast
- Only marginally more intrusive than HAVA, many types of identification permitted – thus, valid

McKay v. Thompson, 2000

- Statute: mandated disclosure of SS # as a precondition to voter registration
- Claims:
 - Privacy Act, Section 7: ruled that Tennessee voter system exempt from Privacy Act because it is pre-75
 - NVRA, permitting only min. amt. of info. necessary to prevent duplicate registration and determine eligibility: ruled that NVRA does not specifically forbid the use of SS#s & the Privacy Act specifically permits them pre-75
 - Substantive due process: ruled that internal use of SS# not a burden
 - Free Exercise, based on Bible's supposed prohibition on use of universal identifiers: ruled that law is generally applicable and thus valid
 - P&I, Article IV: does not protect in-state citizens
 - P&I, 14th Amend.: no protection for privilege where Congress authorized its infringement

Kemp v. Tucker, 1975

- Statute: required name, occupation, address, sex, race, height, hair color, eye color, and date of birth be listed on voter registration card for identification purposes
- Claims:
 - VRA: ruled that race was not made a "qualification" for voting
 - 15th Amendment: ruled that it did not abridge right to vote on account of race because rejection of application was due to failure to provide information, not race; race only one factor in identification
 - 14th Amendment EPC: ruled there was no distinction among voters

Perez v. Riddlehoover, 1966

- Statute: date of birth, place of birth, mother's first or maiden name, color of eyes, sex, race, occupation, and whether owner, tenant or boarder must appear on the registration for identification
- Claims:
 - VRA: ruled that it was not a "test or device" because it applied equally
 - 15th Amendment: same reasons

Cases in Which the Plaintiffs Have Prevailed in Challenging the Statute Requiring Voter Identification:

***American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota v. Kiffmeyer*, No. 04-CV-4653, 2004 WL 2428690, at *1 (D. Minn. Oct. 28, 2004).**

This was an action just before the November 2004 election for a temporary restraining order, which was granted. The ACLU challenged a Minnesota law allowing the use of tribal identification cards with the name, address, and photograph as a valid identification (equal to a driver's license) for use in "completing" an incomplete mail-in voter registration only if the Indian lives on the reservation. 2004 WL 2428690, at *1. The Court ruled that this distinction would likely violate the Equal Protection Clause because there was no rational basis for differentiating

FINAL D R A F T

provisional ballots would not be counted if the voter applied for an absentee ballot. 2004 WL 2360485, at *1. The plaintiffs also challenged the provisions under HAVA. The identification provision allowed nearly all forms of acceptable identification under HAVA. *Id.* at *6.

The challenge to the identification requirement failed under both challenges. The Court interpreted HAVA as not intended to preempt state laws and as permitting states to be more strict than, but not inconsistent with, HAVA. *Id.* at *10. The Court felt that the purpose of both laws was the same, to reduce voter fraud, and thus, both laws could coexist. As to the Constitutional claim, both equal protection and substantive due process, the Court felt that preventing voter fraud, which is impossible to remedy once a vote is cast, is a compelling interest, and the Court also felt that a voter identification requirement for all voters, with many types of acceptable identification, was only marginally more intrusive than HAVA. *Id.* at 12. The Court also found no improper discrimination between voters. *Id.* Thus, the provision was upheld.

***McKay v. Thompson*, 226 F.3d 752 (6th Cir. 2000).**

The Sixth Circuit ruled that the Privacy Act, the National Voter Registration Act, Substantive Due Process, the Privileges and Immunities Clauses (Fourteenth Amendment & Article IV), and the First Amendment right to free exercise do not prohibit requiring disclosure of social security numbers as a precondition to voter registration.

The Privacy Act, Section 7, mandates that it is unlawful for a government to deny a right or privilege because of a citizen's refusal to disclose his social security number, unless the disclosure was required for a system established prior to 1975. 226 F.3d at 755 (citing Privacy Act of 1974, Pub. L. No. 93-579 (1974)). Since Tennessee required social security numbers for voter registration since 1972, his challenge was rejected. 226 F.3d at 755. Second, the NVRA only permits requiring the minimum amount of information necessary to prevent duplicate voter registration and to determine eligibility. *Id.* at 755-56 (citing 42 U.S.C. §1973gg-3(c)(2)(B)). The Court rejected this challenge because the NVRA does not specifically forbid the use of social security numbers, and the Privacy Act, a more specific statute, grandfathered their use if prior to 1975. 226 F.3d at 756.

Finally, the plaintiff's constitutional claims were all rejected. His substantive due process claim was rejected because internal receipt and use of social security numbers does not burden the fundamental right to vote. *Id.* The free exercise challenge, based on the Bible's supposed prohibition of universal identifiers, was rejected because the law was generally applicable and not directed at particular religious practices. *Id.* The Privileges and Immunities Clause claim was rejected because the Clause does not apply to citizens of the state. *Id.* The Fourteenth Amendment Privileges and Immunities claim, based on the right to vote as unique to U.S. citizenship, was rejected because the Clause provides no protection where Congress has authorized the infringement. *Id.*

***Kemp v. Tucker*, 396 F. Supp. 737 (M.D. Pa. 1975), *aff'd*, 423 U.S. 803.**

A statute was upheld, which required name, occupation, address, sex, race, height, hair color, eye color, and date of birth to be recorded on the voter registration card and allowed registration officials to reject an incomplete application. 396 F. Supp. at 738. Claims were alleged under the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, the Fifteenth Amendment, and the Voting Rights Act.

As to the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment claims, the Court reasoned that preventing voter fraud is a compelling goal, and identification provisions are "an essential means of achieving the goal." *Id.* at 739. The Court also rejected the equal protection claim because the statutes did not create a distinction at all. *Id.* at 740 n.3. Since race is just one of

FINAL D R A F T

Georgia (*Common Cause/Georgia v. Billups*):

On September 19, 2005, Common Cause of Georgia, in conjunction with several other non-profit organizations, filed suit in Federal District Court against the Georgia Secretary of State and other election officials, challenging the constitutionality of Georgia's new voter identification requirements. The new law requires all voters attempting to cast a ballot in person to present a valid form of photographic identification. O.C.G.A. § 21-2-417. A voter that is unable to provide proper identification is given a provisional ballot. However, that provisional ballot will be counted only if the voter is able to subsequently present valid identification within two days of the election. *Id.*

The lawsuit alleges five separate violations of state and federal law. First, the complaint alleges that the identification requirements infringe on the right to vote guaranteed in the Georgia constitution (Compl. 32)¹⁸. In addition, the Plaintiffs claim violations of the Federal Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act. (Compl. 36,38). Finally, the lawsuit alleges violations of the Fourteenth and Twenty-Fourth amendments to the U.S. Constitution. The complaint claims that the ID requirements constitute an "undue burden" on the right to vote, in violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment (Compl. 34). The ID requirement does not apply to most absentee voters, and thus the requirement is also over-broad and not narrowly tailored to address the stated purpose of preventing voter fraud (Compl. 34). The complaint further alleges that the cost of obtaining a photo ID constitutes a poll tax, in violation of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment, and that the cost is also a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment because it applies to voters who choose to vote in person, and not to those who vote absentee (Compl. 34,35).

On October 18, 2005, the District Court granted the Plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction, enjoining the application of the new identification requirements. In granting the injunction, the court held that both federal constitutional claims had a substantial likelihood of succeeding on the merits at trial (Prelim. Inj. 96, 104). The court also held that, while the two federal statutory claims were plausible, they both lacked sufficient evidence at the time to have a substantial likelihood of success. (Prelim. Inj. 109,111,116). Finally, the court held that the Georgia constitutional claim would be barred by the Eleventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. (Prelim. Inj. 77).

The Defendants appealed the motion for preliminary injunction to the Eleventh Circuit, and oral argument is scheduled for March 1, 2006. In addition, some news reports have claimed that the Georgia legislature is considering re-visiting the ID requirements in light of the on-going litigation.¹⁹ As for the merits, in granting the preliminary injunction the District Court has already signaled its belief that the federal constitutional claims are likely meritorious. The Eleventh Circuit may have a different view, but for now the case looks to have a reasonable chance of success.

Indiana (*Indiana Democratic Party v. Rokita and Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*):

The Indiana lawsuit is similar to its Georgia counterpart in content, though not in status. In Indiana separate lawsuits, now joined, were filed by the state Democratic Party and the

¹⁸ Litigation documents are available at the Election Law @ Moritz website.

<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/litigation/index.php>

¹⁹ GA Legislature May Revisit Voter ID Law, State Net Capitol Journal, Dec. 19, 2005.

FINAL D R A F T

APPENDIX

Annotated Bibliography on Voter Identification Issues

Law Journals

- Angelo J. Genova & Rebecca Moll Freed, *The Right to Vote and Be Counted: A Liberty at Risk*, 233 N.J. LAW 44, Apr. 2005.
 - Discusses HAVA a lot
- George W. Grayson, *Registering and Identifying Voters: What the United States Can Learn From Mexico*, 3 ELECTION L.J. 513 (2004).
 - Benefits of US adopting Mexican system of identifying voters and voter registration
- Robert A. Pastor, *Improving the U.S. Electoral System: Lessons from Canada and Mexico*, 3 ELECTION L.J. 584 (2004).
 - Discusses HAVA, problems of 2000 election, discusses registration & identification
- Brian Kim, *Recent Development: Help America Vote Act*, 40 HARV. J. ON LEGIS. 579 (Summer 2003).
 - Discussion of HAVA requirements and voter ID, problems in 2000
- Robert L. McCurley, *Legislative Wrap-Up: Election Law Changes*, 64 ALA. LAW. 364, Nov. 2003.
 - Discusses changes in AL to their election law in 2003, including adding voter ID
 - HAVA discussed
- Clifford B. Levine, Esq. & David J. Montgomery, Esq., *Post-Election Litigation in Pennsylvania*, 41 Duq. L. Rev. 153 (Fall, 2002).
 - Discusses challenging elections based on voter fraud & illegal votes
- Rebecca Barrett, *Election*, 18 GA. ST. U. L. REV. 114 (Fall 2001).
 - Discusses a GA law in 2001 removing hunting & fishing licenses from list of acceptable ID and a failed amendment to limit acceptable ID to photo ID only
- Robert A. Junell, Curtis L. Seidlits, Jr. & Glen G. Shuffler, *Consideration of Illegal Votes in Legislative Election Contests*, 28 Tex. Tech L. Rev. 1095 (1997).
 - General discussion of ways voters are verified, what happens when voters are challenged as illegal voters
- John Victor Berry, *Take the Money and Run: Lame-Ducks "Quack" and Pass Voter Identification Provisions*, 74 U. DET. MERCY L. REV. 291 (Winter 1997).
 - discusses a photo ID law passed in Michigan in 1997 (later declared violated EPC of 14th amendment)
 - arguments against photo ID
- Deborah S. James, Note, *Voter Registration: A Restriction on the Fundamental Right to Vote*, 96 YALE L.J. 1615 (1987).
 - Discusses voter registration as a way to combat fraud & several different ways to do it

Historical articles:

- Gabrielle B. Ruda, Note, *Picture Perfect: A Critical Analysis of the Debate on the 2002 Help America Vote Act*, 31 FORDHAM URB. L.J. 235 (November 2003).
 - Lot of analysis on HAVA and voter ID
 - Little bit of historical
 - Arguments for and against certain types of voter ID laws

007407

FINAL D R A F T

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U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 1100
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR

BEFORE THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

In the Matter of)
)
Draft Voter Identification Report, Research and)
Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements)
)

CERTIFICATION

I, Donetta Davidson, Chair of the Election Assistance Commission, do hereby certify that on March 30, 2007 the Commission decided by a vote of 4-0. The following action(s) were taken:

1.


The Commission should approve the Voter Identification Report, Research and Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements.

Commissioner Rodriguez noted: I am persuaded by the Consultant that better data collection is essential to future EAC research projects. I am not chafed by the use of the CPS because, historically, it has been used as a barometer of voter behavior. It was more important for me to support the recommendation in order to release the Report than argue the use of the CPS.

Commissioners Davidson, Hillman, Hunter and Rodriguez voted affirmatively for the decision.

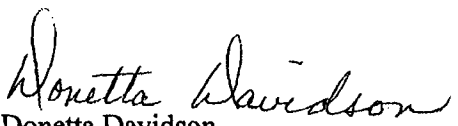
Attest:

3/30/07
Date

 for Donetta Davidson
Donetta Davidson
Chair

March 29, 2007

This is to authorize Elieen Collver to sign correspondence and tally votes in my absence.


Donetta Davidson
Chair

007413



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 29, 2007, 12:30p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: April 02, 2007, 12:30p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- () I approve the recommendation.
() I disapprove the recommendation.
() I object to the recommendation.
() I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007414



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners Davidson, Hillman, Hunter, and Rodriguez

FROM:  Thomas R. Wilkey
Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2007

RE: Draft Voter Identification Report, Research and Future Study of Voter
Identification Requirements

In 2005, EAC contracted with the Eagleton Institute of Politics to conduct a study of the voter identification requirements that were in existence in the 50 states and 5 territories during the 2004 election. As a part of that study, Eagleton conducted research concerning the status of laws in the states and also conducted statistical analysis regarding the impact of the existence of voter identification requirements on the turnout of voters.

A draft statement capturing proposed action on the draft report as well as recommended next steps for research and analysis of voter identification requirements has been attached to this memorandum.

I recommend approval of this statement.

EAC Statement on Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. In May 2005, EAC contracted with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey through its Eagleton Institute of Politics ("Contractor") to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the Contractor was asked to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and to recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The Contractor performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Drawing on its nationwide review and legal analysis of state statutes and regulations for voter identification, the contractor compared states with similar voter identification requirements and drew conclusions based on comparing turnout rates among states for one election – November 2004. For example, the turnout rate in 2004 in states that required the voter to provide a photo identification document¹ was compared to the turnout rate in 2004 in states with a requirement that voters give his or her name in order to receive a ballot. Contractor used two sets of data to estimate turnout rates: 1) voting age population estimates² and 2) individual-level survey data from the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.³

The Contractor presented testimony summarizing its findings from this statistical and data analysis at the February 8, 2007 public meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The Contractor's testimony, its summary of voter identification requirements by State, its summary of court decisions and literature on voter identification and related issues, an annotated bibliography on voter identification issues and its summary of state statutes and regulations affecting voter identification are attached to this report and can also be found on EAC's website, www.eac.gov.

EAC Declines to Adopt Draft Report

¹ In 2004, three of the states that authorized election officials to request photo identification allowed voters to provide a non-photo ID and still vote a regular ballot and two others permitted voters who lacked photo ID to vote a regular ballot by swearing and affidavit.

² The July 2004 estimates for voting age population were provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. These data did not differentiate between citizens and non-citizens; because these numbers include non-citizens, the Contractor applied the percentage of citizens included in voting age population statistics in 2000 to the U.S. Census Bureau estimated voting age population in 2004. Thus, 2004 estimates of voting age population include persons who are not registered to vote.

³ The Current Population Survey is based on reports from self-described registered voters who also describe themselves as U.S. citizens.

EAC finds the Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements, to be a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements.

However, EAC has concerns regarding the data, analysis, and statistical methodology the Contractor used to analyze voter identification requirements to determine if these laws have an impact on turnout rates. The study only focused on one federal election. An analysis using averaged county-level turnout data from the U.S. Census showed no statistically significant correlations. A second analysis using a data set based upon the Current Population Survey (which was self-reported and showed a significantly higher turnout rate than other conventional data) was conducted that produced some evidence of correlation between voter identification requirements and turnout. The initial categorization of voter identification requirements included classifications that, actually, require no identification documentation, such as "state your name." The research methodology and the statistical analysis used by the Contractor were questioned by an EAC review group comprised of social scientists and statisticians. The Contractor and the EAC agree that the report raises more questions than provides answers and both agree the study should have covered more than one federal election.⁴ Thus, EAC will not adopt the Contractor's study and will not issue an EAC report based upon this study. All of the material provided by the Contractor is attached.

Further EAC Study on Voter Identification Requirements

EAC will engage in a longer-term, more systematic review of voter identification requirements. Additional study on the topic will include more than one Federal election cycle, additional environmental and political factors that effect voter participation, and the numerous changes in state laws and regulations related to voter identification requirements that have occurred since 2004.

EAC will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state his or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identity.
- Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.

⁴ See Transcript of EAC Public Meeting, February 8, 2007, page 109.

- In 2007, convene a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include methodology, specific issues to be covered in the study and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- Study how voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have impacted voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender. Study the effects of voter identification provisions, or the lack thereof, on early, absentee and vote-by-mail voting.
- Publish a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 29, 2007, 12:30p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: April 02, 2007, 12:30p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ I approve the recommendation.
☐ I disapprove the recommendation.
☐ I object to the recommendation.
☐ I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: *I am persuaded by the Consultant that better data collection is essential to future EAC research projects. I am not chafed by the use of the CPS because, historically, it has been used as a barometer of voter behavior. It was more important for me to support the recommendation in order to release the Report than argue the use of the CPS.*

I agree with the Consultant that "stating one's names" is a form of voter identification in those states where that is the statutory provision.

Based on my experience in Colorado, I am concerned about the rights of citizens when strict picture ID requirements are imposed. For a variety of reasons, picture IDs are beyond the reach of some citizens and entitled citizens lose access to opportunity and programs for lack of picture ID. It would not be acceptable to me for them to also lose their voting rights.

DATE: 3-29-2007

SIGNATURE: _____

Gwendolyn Rodriguez 3:44p.m.

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007419



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 29, 2007, 12:30p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: April 02, 2007, 12:30p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ I approve the recommendation.
- ☐ I disapprove the recommendation.
- ☐ I object to the recommendation.
- ☐ I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: 3/30/07

SIGNATURE: _____

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007420



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 29, 2007, 12:30p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: April 02, 2007, 12:30p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ I approve the recommendation.
☐ I disapprove the recommendation.
☐ I object to the recommendation.
☐ I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: 3/29/07

SIGNATURE: _____

[Signature]
for Chair Donetta Davidson

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007421



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 29, 2007, 12:30p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: April 02, 2007, 12:30p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- ☒ I approve the recommendation.
☐ I disapprove the recommendation.
☐ I object to the recommendation.
☐ I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: 3/29/07 SIGNATURE: Carol C. Hunt

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007422



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 26, 2007, 1:00p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: March 28, 2007, 1:00p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- () I approve the recommendation.
- () I disapprove the recommendation.
- () I object to the recommendation.
- () I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

007423



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners Davidson, Hillman, Hunter, and Rodriguez

FROM: Thomas R. Wilkey *HRW*
Executive Director

DATE: March 26, 2007

RE: Draft Voter Identification Report, Research and Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

BACKGROUND

In 2005, EAC contracted with the Eagleton Institute of Politics to conduct a study of the voter identification requirements that were in existence in the 50 states and 5 territories during the 2004 election. As a part of that study, Eagleton conducted research concerning the status of laws in the states and also conducted statistical analysis regarding the impact of the existence of voter identification requirements on the turnout of voters.

The Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements are a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements. However, the data, analysis, and statistical methodology the Contractor used to analyze voter identification requirements raise concerns. The Contractor used a single election's statistics to conduct this analysis. The two sets of data came from the Census Bureau and included persons who were not eligible to and did not vote. The first analysis using averaged county-level turnout data from the U.S. Census showed no statistically significant correlations. So, a second analysis using a data set based upon the Current Population Survey (which was self-reported and showed a significantly higher turnout rate than other conventional data) was conducted that produced only some evidence of correlation between voter identification requirements and turnout. Furthermore, the initial categorization of voter identification requirements included classifications that actually require no identification at all, such as "state your name." The research methodology and the statistical analysis used by the Contractor were questioned by independent working and peer review groups comprised of social scientists and statisticians.

ANALYSIS

As you may know, the Deliberative Process Privilege to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) protects intra-agency documents that are (1) pre-decisional in nature and (2) part of the deliberative process. In other words, the documents must be part of a process that recommends or presents opinions on a policy matter or governmental decision before that matter is finally decided. It is a well settled matter of law that the work of contract employees and contractors ("consultants") constitute intra-agency documents.¹ This is true even where the consultants are deemed to be independent contractors and are not subject to the degree of control that agency employment entails.² The courts have made this determination after recognizing that agencies have a special need for the opinions and recommendations of temporary consultants.³ Ultimately, deliberative documents are exempt from release (1) to encourage open and frank discussions on policy matters between agency subordinates and superiors, (2) to protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies and (3) to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of rationales that were not in fact the ultimate basis for agency action.⁴

The draft report presented by Eagleton represents one phase of the deliberative process—before the document was vetted by staff, approved by the Executive Director and reviewed and approved by the Commissioners (the relevant policy makers). Ultimately, the draft document was created by Eagleton in order to aid the EAC's Commissioners in their decisions regarding voter identification requirements. The contractor had no personal interest in their submissions and had no agency decision-making authority. Eagleton was tasked with simply providing pre-decisional research and information to the EAC. Their efforts were limited to creating a truthful, comprehensive, and unbiased draft report. Only when a report is finalized and is adopted by EAC does it constitute an EAC decision or a policy determination.

The Voter Identification draft report was created by Eagleton in conjunction with the Moritz College of Law (Ohio State University) to "...provide research assistance to the EAC for the development of voluntary guidance on provisional voting and voter identification procedures." The stated objective of the contract was to:

...obtain assistance with the collection, analysis and interpretation of information regarding HAVA provisional voting and voter identification requirements for the purpose of drafting guidance on these topics... The anticipated outcome of this activity is the generation of concrete policy recommendations to be issued as voluntary guidance for States.

Eagleton was provided guidance, information, and were directed by EAC personnel. The final product that they were to deliver (draft report) was identified in the contract as "a guidance document for EAC adoption." Clearly, as noted by the contract, the issuance of Federal guidance to states is a matter of government policy and limited to official EAC action.

¹ Department of the Interior v. Klamath Water Users Protective Association, 532 U.S. 1, 9-11 (2001) (Citing Harry E. Hoover v. Dept. of the Interior, 611 F.2d 1132, at 1138 (1980); Lead Industries Assn. v. OSHA, 610 F.2d 70, 83 (C.A.5 1980) (applying exemption 5 to draft reports prepared by contractors); and Government Land Bank v. GSA, 671 F.2d 663, 665 (CA1 1982)); See also Hertzberg v. Veneman, 273 F. Supp. 2d 67, 76 n.2 (D.D.C. 2003).

² Klamath, at 10.

³ Hoover, 611 F.2d at 1138.

⁴ NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 41 U.S. at 151.

EAC's interpretation of HAVA and its determination of what it will study and how it will use its resources to study it are matters of agency policy and decision. It would be irresponsible for EAC to accept the product of contracted employees and publish that information without exercising due diligence in vetting the product of the employees' work and the veracity of the information used to produce that product. EAC, along with working and peer review groups have conducted this review of the draft voter identification report provided by Eagleton. EAC found that the draft report raised more questions than it answered, because of the limited data that was analyzed and the analysis that was conducted on those data.

As a part of its review of the draft report, EAC staff have determined that the contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements are a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements. In addition, staff recommends a series of next steps for future study and analysis of voter identification requirements, including:

- Conduct an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identity.
- Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.
- In 2007, convene a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include methodology, specific issues to be covered in the study and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- Study how voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have impacted voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender. Study the effects of voter identification provisions, or the lack thereof, on early, absentee and vote-by-mail voting.
- Publish a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.

A draft statement capturing proposed action on the draft report as well as recommended next steps for research and analysis of voter identification requirements has been attached to this memorandum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) EAC should exercise its authority in making policy concerning the study of voter identification requirements and decline to adopt the draft report provided by Eagleton;
- (2) EAC should adopt the recommendations of staff regarding future study and analysis of voter identification requirements;
- (3) EAC should adopt and publish the attached statement concerning the research and draft report presented by Eagleton as well as the future plans of EAC to conduct research in this area; and
- (4) EAC should publish the data, information and draft report provided by Eagleton.

EAC Study of Voter Identification Requirements

Background

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) authorizes the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to conduct periodic studies of election administration issues. In May 2005, EAC contracted with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey through its Eagleton Institute of Politics ("Contractor") to perform a review and legal analysis of state legislation, administrative procedures and court cases, and to perform a literature review on other research and data available on the topic of voter identification requirements. Further, the Contractor was asked to analyze the problems and challenges of voter identification, to hypothesize alternative approaches and to recommend various policies that could be applied to these approaches.

The Contractor performed a statistical analysis of the relationship of various requirements for voter identification to voter turnout in the 2004 election. Drawing on its nationwide review and legal analysis of state statutes and regulations for voter identification, the contractor compared states with similar voter identification requirements and drew conclusions based on comparing turnout rates among states for one election – November 2004. For example, the turnout rate in 2004 in states that required the voter to provide a photo identification document¹ was compared to the turnout rate in 2004 in states with a requirement that voters give his or her name in order to receive a ballot. Contractor used two sets of data to estimate turnout rates: 1) voting age population estimates² and 2) individual-level survey data from the November 2004 Current Population Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.³

The Contractor presented testimony summarizing its findings from this statistical and data analysis at the February 8, 2007 public meeting of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The Contractor's testimony, its summary of voter identification requirements by State, its summary of court decisions and literature on voter identification and related issues, an annotated bibliography on voter identification issues and its summary of state statutes and regulations affecting voter identification are attached to this report and can also be found on EAC's website, www.eac.gov.

EAC Declines to Adopt Draft Report

¹ In 2004, three of the states that authorized election officials to request photo identification allowed voters to provide a non-photo ID and still vote a regular ballot and two others permitted voters who lacked photo ID to vote a regular ballot by swearing and affidavit.

² The July 2004 estimates for voting age population were provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. These data did not differentiate between citizens and non-citizens; because these numbers include non-citizens, the Contractor applied the percentage of citizens included in voting age population statistics in 2000 to the U.S. Census Bureau estimated voting age population in 2004. Thus, 2004 estimates of voting age population include persons who are not registered to vote.

³ The Current Population Survey is based on reports from self-described registered voters who also describe themselves as U.S. citizens.

EAC finds the Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements, to be a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements.

However, EAC has concerns regarding the data, analysis, and statistical methodology the Contractor used to analyze voter identification requirements to determine if these laws have an impact on turnout rates. The Contractor used a single election's statistics to conduct this analysis. The two sets of data came from the Census Bureau and included persons who were not eligible to and did not vote. The first analysis using averaged county-level turnout data from the U.S. Census showed no statistically significant correlations. So, a second analysis using a data set based upon the Current Population Survey (which was self-reported and showed a significantly higher turnout rate than other conventional data) was conducted that produced only some evidence of correlation between voter identification requirements and turnout. Furthermore, the initial categorization of voter identification requirements included classifications that actually require no identification at all, such as "state your name." The research methodology and the statistical analysis used by the Contractor were questioned by independent working and peer review groups comprised of social scientists and statisticians. The Contractor and the EAC agree that the report raises more questions than provides answers.⁴ Thus, EAC will not adopt the Contractor's study and will not issue an EAC report based upon this study. All of the material provided by the Contractor is attached.

Further EAC Study on Voter Identification Requirements

EAC will engage in a longer-term, more systematic review of voter identification requirements. Additional study on the topic will include more than one Federal election cycle, additional environmental and political factors that effect voter participation, and the numerous changes in state laws and regulations related to voter identification requirements that have occurred since 2004.

EAC will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identify.
- Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.

⁴ See Transcript of EAC Public Meeting, February 8, 2007, page 109.

- In 2007, convene a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include methodology, specific issues to be covered in the study and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- Study how voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have impacted voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender. Study the effects of voter identification provisions, or the lack thereof, on early, absentee and vote-by-mail voting.
- Publish a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

TALLY VOTE MATTER

DATE & TIME OF TRANSMITTAL: March 28, 2007, 3:00p.m.

BALLOT DEADLINE: March 30, 2007, 3:00p.m.

COMMISSIONERS: DAVIDSON, HILLMAN, HUNTER AND RODRIGUEZ

SUBJECT: DRAFT VOTER IDENTIFICATION REPORT, RESEARCH AND
FUTURE STUDY OF VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- () I approve the recommendation.
() I disapprove the recommendation.
() I object to the recommendation.
() I am recused from voting.

COMMENTS: _____

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

A definite vote is required. All ballots must be signed and dated. Please return
ONLY THE BALLOT to the EAC Chairman. Please return the ballot no later than
date and time shown above.

FROM THOMAS WILKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


007431



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners Davidson, Hillman, Hunter, and Rodriguez

FROM:  Thomas R. Wilkey
Executive Director

DATE: March 28, 2007

RE: Draft Voter Identification Report, Research and Future Study of Voter Identification Requirements

BACKGROUND

In 2005, EAC contracted with the Eagleton Institute of Politics to conduct a study of the voter identification requirements that were in existence in the 50 states and 5 territories during the 2004 election. As a part of that study, Eagleton conducted research concerning the status of laws in the states and also conducted statistical analysis regarding the impact of the existence of voter identification requirements on the turnout of voters.

The Contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements are a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements. However, the data, analysis, and statistical methodology the Contractor used to analyze voter identification requirements raise concerns. The Contractor used a single election's statistics to conduct this analysis. The two sets of data came from the Census Bureau and included persons who were not eligible to and did not vote. The first analysis using averaged county-level turnout data from the U.S. Census showed no statistically significant correlations. So, a second analysis using a data set based upon the Current Population Survey (which was self-reported and showed a significantly higher turnout rate than other conventional data) was conducted that produced only some evidence of correlation between voter identification requirements and turnout. Furthermore, the initial categorization of voter identification requirements included classifications that actually require no identification at all, such as "state your name." The research methodology and the statistical analysis used by the Contractor were questioned by independent working and peer review groups comprised of social scientists and statisticians.

ANALYSIS

As you may know, the Deliberative Process Privilege to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) protects intra-agency documents that are (1) pre-decisional in nature and (2) part of the deliberative process. In other words, the documents must be part of a process that recommends or presents opinions on a policy matter or governmental decision before that matter is finally decided. It is a well settled matter of law that the work of contract employees and contractors ("consultants") constitute intra-agency documents.¹ This is true even where the consultants are deemed to be independent contractors and are not subject to the degree of control that agency employment entails.² The courts have made this determination after recognizing that agencies have a special need for the opinions and recommendations of temporary consultants.³ Ultimately, deliberative documents are exempt from release (1) to encourage open and frank discussions on policy matters between agency subordinates and superiors, (2) to protect against premature disclosure of proposed policies and (3) to protect against public confusion that might result from disclosure of rationales that were not in fact the ultimate basis for agency action.⁴

The draft report presented by Eagleton represents one phase of the deliberative process—before the document was vetted by staff, approved by the Executive Director and reviewed and approved by the Commissioners (the relevant policy makers). Ultimately, the draft document was created by Eagleton in order to aid the EAC's Commissioners in their decisions regarding voter identification requirements. The contractor had no personal interest in their submissions and had no agency decision-making authority. Eagleton was tasked with simply providing pre-decisional research and information to the EAC. Their efforts were limited to creating a truthful, comprehensive, and unbiased draft report. Only when a report is finalized and is adopted by EAC does it constitute an EAC decision or a policy determination.

The Voter Identification draft report was created by Eagleton in conjunction with the Moritz College of Law (Ohio State University) to "...provide research assistance to the EAC for the development of voluntary guidance on provisional voting and voter identification procedures." The stated objective of the contract was to:

...obtain assistance with the collection, analysis and interpretation of information regarding HAVA provisional voting and voter identification requirements for the purpose of drafting guidance on these topics... The anticipated outcome of this activity is the generation of concrete policy recommendations to be issued as voluntary guidance for States.

Eagleton was provided guidance, information, and were directed by EAC personnel. The final product that they were to deliver (draft report) was identified in the contract as "a guidance document for EAC adoption." Clearly, as noted by the contract, the issuance of Federal guidance to states is a matter of government policy and limited to official EAC action.

¹ Department of the Interior v. Klamath Water Users Protective Association, 532 U.S. 1, 9-11 (2001) (Citing Harry E. Hoover v. Dept. of the Interior, 611 F.2d 1132, at 1138 (1980); Lead Industries Assn. v. OSHA, 610 F.2d 70, 83 (C.A.5 1980) (applying exemption 5 to draft reports prepared by contractors); and Government Land Bank v. GSA, 671 F.2d 663, 665 (CA1 1982)); See also Hertzberg v. Veneman, 273 F. Supp. 2d 67, 76 n.2 (D.D.C. 2003).

² Klamath, at 10.

³ Hoover, 611 F.2d at 1138.

⁴ NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 41 U.S. at 151.

EAC's interpretation of HAVA and its determination of what it will study and how it will use its resources to study it are matters of agency policy and decision. It would be irresponsible for EAC to accept the product of contracted employees and publish that information without exercising due diligence in vetting the product of the employees' work and the veracity of the information used to produce that product. EAC, along with working and peer review groups have conducted this review of the draft voter identification report provided by Eagleton. EAC found that the draft report raised more questions than it answered, because of the limited data that was analyzed and the analysis that was conducted on those data.

As a part of its review of the draft report, EAC staff have determined that the contractor's summary of States' voter identification requirements and its summary of state laws, statutes, regulations and litigation surrounding the implementation of voter identification requirements are a first step in the Commission's efforts to study the possible impact of voter identification requirements. In addition, staff recommends a series of next steps for future study and analysis of voter identification requirements, including:

- Conduct an ongoing state-by-state review, reporting and tracking of voter identification requirements. This will include tracking states' requirements which require a voter to state this or her name, to sign his or her name, to match his or her signature to a signature on file, to provide photo or non-photo identification or to swear an affidavit affirming his or her identity.
- Establish a baseline of information that will include factors that may affect or influence Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) voter participation, including various voter identification requirements, the competitiveness of a race and certain environmental or political factors. EAC will use some of the information collected by Eagleton as well as additional data from the states to develop this baseline.
- In 2007, convene a working group of advocates, academics, research methodologists and election officials to discuss EAC's next study of voter identification. Topics to be discussed include methodology, specific issues to be covered in the study and timelines for completing an EAC study on voter identification.
- Study how voter identification provisions that have been in place for two or more Federal elections have impacted voter turnout, voter registration figures, and fraud. Included in this study will be an examination of the relationship between voter turnout and other factors such as race and gender. Study the effects of voter identification provisions, or the lack thereof, on early, absentee and vote-by-mail voting.
- Publish a series of best practice case studies which detail a particular state's or jurisdiction's experiences with educating poll workers and voters about various voter identification requirements. Included in the case studies will be detail on the policies and practices used to educate and inform poll workers and voters.

A draft statement capturing proposed action on the draft report as well as recommended next steps for research and analysis of voter identification requirements has been attached to this memorandum.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) EAC should exercise its authority in making policy concerning the study of voter identification requirements and decline to adopt the draft report provided by Eagleton;
- (2) EAC should adopt the recommendations of staff regarding future study and analysis of voter identification requirements;
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- (4) EAC should publish the data, information and draft report provided by Eagleton.



U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW - Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

May 12, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: EAC Commissioners

FROM: Peggy Sims, Election Research Specialist *PS*

SUBJECT: Voting Fraud-Voter Intimidation Working Group Meeting

The first meeting of the Voting Fraud-Voter Intimidation Working Group will take place from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM on Thursday, May 18th, 2006 at the offices of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), 1225 New York Avenue, NW, 11th Floor, Washington, DC.

As you know, Section 241 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) requires EAC to conduct research on election administration issues. Among the tasks listed in the statute is the development of:

- nationwide statistics and methods of identifying, deterring, and investigating voting fraud in elections for Federal office [section 241(b)(6)]; and
- ways of identifying, deterring, and investigating methods of voter intimidation [section 241(b)(7)].

EAC's Board of Advisors recommended that the agency make research on these matters a high priority. Consequently, in September 2005, EAC contracted with two consultants (Job Serebrov and Tova Wang) to:

- develop a comprehensive description of what constitutes voting fraud and voter intimidation in the context of Federal elections;
- perform background research (including Federal and State administrative and case law review), identify current activities of key government agencies, civic and advocacy organizations regarding these topics, and deliver a summary of this research and all source documentation;

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- establish a project working group, in consultation with EAC, composed of key individuals and representatives of organizations knowledgeable about the topics of voting fraud and voter intimidation;
- provide the description of what constitutes voting fraud and voter intimidation and the results of the preliminary research to the working group, and convene the working group to discuss potential avenues for future EAC research on this topic; and
- produce a report to EAC summarizing the findings of the preliminary research effort and working group deliberations that includes recommendations for future research, if any;

For your information, the folder accompanying this letter includes a number of items related to our consultants' preliminary research and the upcoming meeting:

- a meeting agenda;
- a list of Working Group members;
- a draft definition of election fraud;
- a list of reports and literature reviewed;
- a summary of interviews conducted and a list of experts interviewed;
- a list of experts interviewed;
- an analysis of news articles researched through Nexis;
- a summary of Department of Justice, Public Integrity Section cases, October 2002-January 2006;
- an analysis of case law review;
- a summary of research methodology recommendations from political scientists and experts in the field; and
- a CD with summaries of individual reports and literature reviewed, summaries of individual interviews, charts and summaries of news articles, and case law summary charts.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Enclosures

cc: Tom Wilkey, Executive Director
Julie Thompson-Hodgkins, General Counsel
Gavin Gilmour, Associate General Counsel